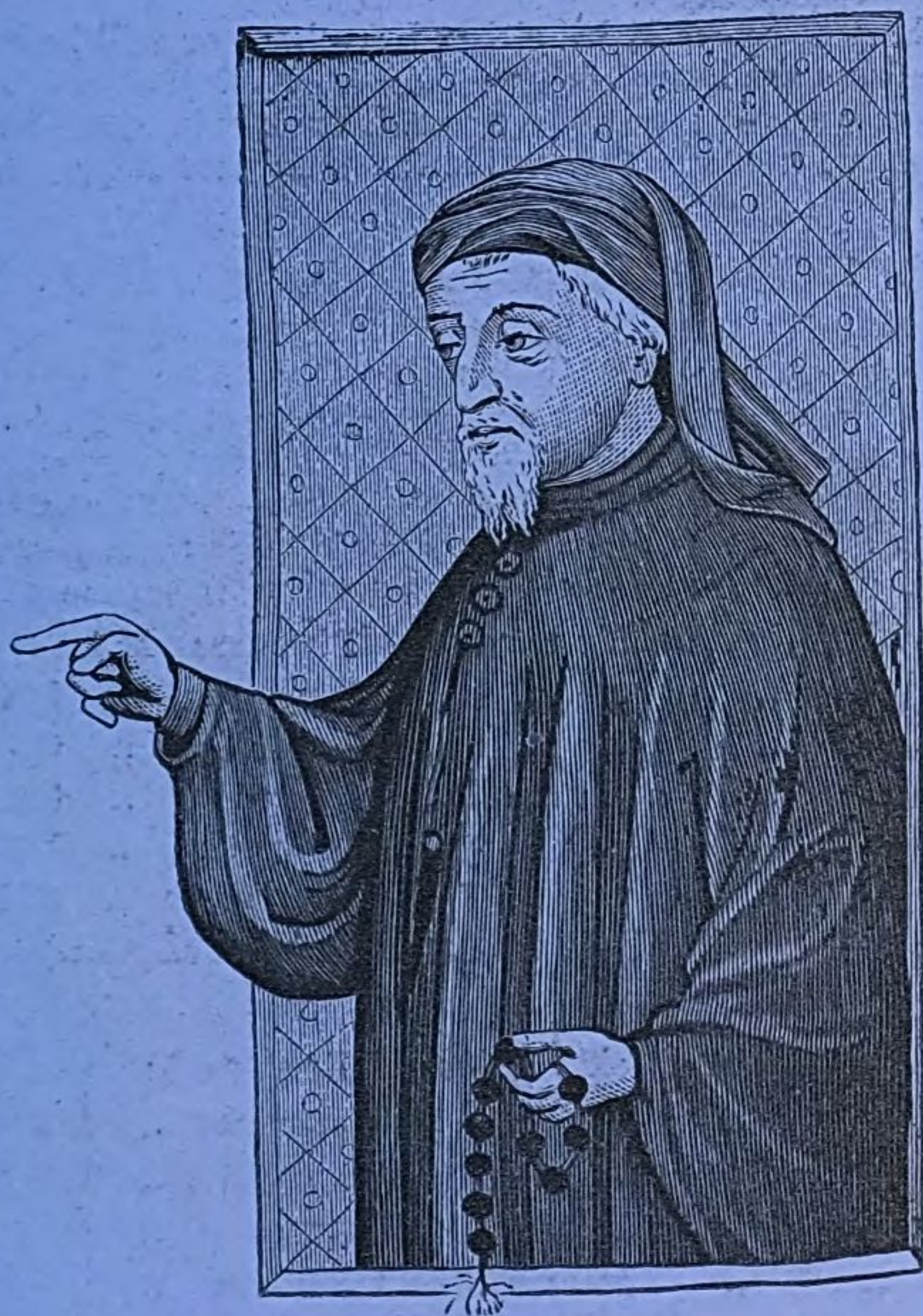


S. o. angl. 8° 373 7/8 (12)
Chaucer Society.

THE
Petworth MS
OF
Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

EDITED BY
FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL.



PART II.

The Miller's, Reeve's, Cook's, and Gamelyn's Tales.

LONDON:
PUBLISHT FOR THE CHAUCER SOCIETY BY
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The Chaucer Society.

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THE CHAUCER SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

To do honour to CHAUCER, and to let the lovers and students of him see how far the best unprinted Manuscripts of his works differed from the printed texts, this Society was founded in 1868. There were then, and are still, many questions of metre, pronunciation, orthography, and etymology yet to be settled, for which more prints of Manuscripts were and are wanted; and it is hardly too much to say that every line of Chaucer contains points that need reconsideration. The founder (Mr Furnivall) began with *The Canterbury Tales*, and has given of them (in parallel columns in Royal 4to) six of the best theretofore unprinted Manuscripts known. Inasmuch as the parallel arrangement necessitated the alteration of the places of certain tales in some of the MSS, a print of each MS has been issued separately, following the order of its original. The first six MSS printed have been: the Ellesmere (by leave of the Earl of Ellesmere); the Hengwrt (by leave of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq.); the Camb. Univ. Libr., MS Gg. 4. 27; the Corpus, Oxford; the Petworth (by leave of Lord Leconfield); and the Lansdowne 851 (Brit. Mus.). The Harleian 3374 will follow.

Of Chaucer's *Minor Poems*,—the MSS of which are generally later than the best MSS of the *Canterbury Tales*,—all the available MSS have been printed so as to secure all the existing evidence for the true text.

The *Boece* from the best MS, and the *Troilus* Parallel-Text from the 3 best MSS, are now all in type.

To secure the fidelity and uniform treatment of the texts, Mr F. J. Furnivall has read and will read all with their MSS.

Autotypes of all the best Chaucer MSS. either have been or will be published.

The Society's publications are issued in two Series, of which the first contains the different texts of Chaucer's works; and the Second, such originals of and essays on these as can be procured, with other illustrative treatises, and Supplementary Tales.

FIRST SERIES.

The Society's issue for 1868, in the **First Series**, is,

- I. The Prologue and Knight's Tale, of the *Canterbury Tales*, in 6 parallel Texts (from the 6 MSS named below), together with Tables, showing the Groups of the Tales, and their varying order in 38 MSS of the Tales, and in 5 old printed editions, and also Specimens from several MSS of the "Moveable Prologues" of the *Canterbury Tales*,—The Shipman's Prologue, and Franklin's Prologue,—when moved from their right places, and of the Substitutes for them. (The Six-Text, Part I.)

II. The Prologue and Knight's Tale from the Ellesmere MS.

III. " " " " " " " Hengwrt " 154

IV. " " " " " " " Cambridge " Gg. 4. 27

V. " " " " " " " Corpus " Oxford

VI. " " " " " " " Petworth "

VII. " " " " " " " Lansdowne " 851

(separate issues of the Texts forming Part I of the Six-Text edition.)

The issue for 1869, in the **First Series**, is,

VIII. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales: Ellesmere MS.

IX. " " " " " " " Hengwrt " }

X. " " " " " " " Cambridge " }

XI. " " " " " " " Corpus " }

XII. " " " " " " " Petworth " }

XIII. " " " " " " " Lansdowne, " }

with an
Appendix of
"Gamelyn"
from six MSS.

(separate issues of the Texts forming the Six-Text, Part II, No. XIV.)

The issue for 1870, in the **First Series**, is,

XIV. The Miller's, Reeve's, and Cook's Tales, with an Appendix of the Spurious Tale of Gamelyn, in 6 parallel Texts. (Six-Text, Part II.)

The issue for 1871, in the **First Series**, is,

XV. The Man of Law's, Shipman's, and Prioress's Tales, with Chaucer's own Tale of Sir Thopas, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, and 10 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS.

XVI. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Ellesmere MS.

XVII. " " " " " " " Cambridge MS.

XVIII. " " " " " " " Corpus MS.

XIX. The Shipman's, Prioress's, and Man of Law's Tales, from the Petworth MS.

XX. The Man of Law's Tale, from the Lansdowne MS.

each with woodcuts of fourteen drawings of Tellers of Tales in the Ellesmere MS.)

- XXI. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I:—1. '*The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse*,' from Thynne's ed. of 1532, the Fairfax MS 16, and Tanner MS 346; 2. '*the Complaynt to Pite*,' 3. '*the Parliament of Foules*,' and 4. '*the Complaynt of Mars*,' each from six MSS.
- XXII. Supplementary Parallel-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 1. '*The Parliament of Foules*,' from three MSS.
- XXIII. Odd Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part I, containing 1. two MS fragments of '*The Parliament of Foules*;' 2. the two differing versions of '*The Prologue to the Legende of Good Women*,' arranged so as to show their differences; 3. an Appendix of Poems attributed to Chaucer, I. '*The Balade of Pitee by Chauciers*;' II. '*The Cronycle made by Chaucer*,' both from MSS written by Shirley, Chaucer's contemporary.
- XXIV. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's Minor Poems, being the best Text from the Parallel-Text Edition, Part I, containing, I. *The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse*, II. *The Complaynt to Pite*, III. *The Parliament of Foules*, IV. *The Complaynt of Mars*, V. *The ABC*, with its original from De DeGuilleville's *Pèlerinage de la Vie humaine* (edited from the best Paris MSS by M. Paul Meyer).

The issue for 1872, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXV. Chaucer's Tale of Melibe, the Monk's, Nun's-Priest's, Doctor's, Pardoner's, Wife of Bath's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, in 6 parallel Texts from the MSS above named, with the remaining 13 coloured drawings of Tellers of Tales, after the originals in the Ellesmere MS, and with Specimens of the Variations of 30 MSS in the Doctor-Pardoner Link. (6-Text, Pt IV.)
- XXVI. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Ellesmere MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)
- XXVII. The Wife's, Friar's, Summoner's, Monk's, and Nun's-Priest's Tales, from the Hengwrt MS, with 23 woodcuts of the Tellers of the Tales. (Part III.)
- XXVIII. The Wife's, Friar's, and Summoner's Tales, from the Cambridge MS, with 9 woodcuts of Tale-Tellers. (Part IV.)
- XXIX. A Treatise on the Astrolabe, addressed to his son Lowys, in 1391 A.D., by Geoffrey Chaucer, edited by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat, M.A.

The issue for 1873, in the **First Series**, is,

- XXX. The Six-Text Canterbury Tales, Part V, containing the Clerk's and Merchant's Tales.

The issue for 1874, in the **First Series** (ready in June 1873), is,

- XXXI. The Six-Text, Part VI, containing the Squire's and Franklin's Tales.
- XXXII to XXXVI. Large Parts of the separate issues of five MSS.

The issue for 1875, in the **First Series** (ready in September 1873), is,

- XXXVII. The Six-Text, Part VII, the Second Nun's, Canon's-Yeoman's, and Manciple's Tales, with the Blank-Parson Link.
- XXXVIII to XLIII. Large Parts of the separate issues of the Six MSS, bringing all up to the Parson's Tale.
- XLIV. A detailed Comparison of the *Troylus and Cryseyde* with Boccaccio's *Filosttrato*, with a Translation of all Passages used by Chaucer, and an Abstract of the Parts not used, by W. Michael Rossetti, Esq., and with a print of the *Troylus* from the Harleian MS 3943. Part I.
- XLV, XLVI. Ryme-Index to the Ellesmere MS of the Canterbury Tales, by Henry Cromie, Esq., M.A. Both in Royal 4to for the *Six-Text*, and in 8vo for the separate Ellesmere MS.
- XLVII. Notes and Corrections for the 8vo Ryme-Index, by H. Cromie, Esq.

The issue for 1876, in the **First Series**, is,

- XLVIII. Autotype Specimens of the Chief Chaucer MSS, Part I, 16 Autotypes, with a Note on the MSS, by F. J. Furnivall.

The issue for 1877, in the **First Series**, is,

- XLIX. The Six-Text, Part VIII, containing the Parson's Tale, with a Table of its Contents; and Mr Hy. Cromie's Notes and Corrections for the Ryme-Index (4to.), No. XLV.
- L to LV. Separate issues of the several MSS of the Parson's Tale.

The issue for 1878, in the **First Series**, is,

- LVI. Autotype Specimens of the Chief Chaucer MSS, Part II: 9 from the Cambridge MS Gg. 4. 27, and 1 from Lord Leconfield's MS.
- LVII. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II:—5. The *A B C*, from 6 MSS; 6. The *Mother of God*, from 3 MSS; 7. *Anelida and Arcyte*, from 5 MSS and Caxton's print; 8. The *Former Age*, from 2 MSS (with the Latin original, and Chaucer's prose Englishing); 9. *To his Scrivener* from Shirley's MS and Stowe's print; 10. The *House of Fame*, from 2 MSS and Caxton's and Thynne's prints.

The issue for 1879, in the **First Series**, is,

- LVIII. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part III, completing the *Parallel-Text*, and containing, 11. *The Legend of Good Women* from 5 MSS and Thynne's print; 12. *Truth* from 6 MSS; 13. *The Complaynt of Venus* from 6 MSS; 14. *The Envoy to Scogan* from 3 MSS; 15. *Marriage*, or *The Envoy to Bukton*, from 1 MS and Notary's and Thynne's prints; 16. *Gentilesse* from 6 MSS; 17. *Proverbs* from 3 MSS; 18. *Stedfastness* from 6 MSS; 19. *Fortune* from 6 MSS; 20. *Chaucer to his empty Purse*, from 6 MSS.

The issue for 1880, in the **First Series**, is,

- LIX. Supplementary Parallel-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II:—1a. *The Parlament of Foules* from 3 MSS; 2. *The A B C* from 6 MSS; 3. *Anelida and Arcite* from 6 MSS; 4. *The Legend of Good Women*, in whole or part from 4 MSS; 5. *The Complaint of Mars* from 3 MSS; 6. *Truth* from 6 MSS; 7. *The Complaynt of Venus* from 3 MSS; 8. *Gentilesse* from 3 MSS; 9. *Lack of Stedfastness* from Thynne's print and 2 MSS; 10. *Fortune* from 2 MSS and Caxton's print.
- LX. Odd-Texts of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II, containing, 3. *The A B C*, from 2 MSS; 4. *The House of Fame*, from the Pepys MS, &c.; 5. *The Legend of Good Women* from 3 MSS; 6. *The Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse* from 1 MS; 7. *The Complaint to Pity* from 2 MSS; 8. *The Parlament of Fowles* from 1 MS; 9. *Truth* from 3 MSS; 10. *Envoy to Scogan* from 1 MS; 11. *Purse* from 1 MS.
- LXI. A One-Text Print of Chaucer's Minor Poems, Part II, containing, VI. *Mother of God*; VII. *Anelida*; VIII. *The Former Age*; IX. *Adam Scrivener*; X. *The House of Fame*; XI. *Legende*; XII. *Truth*; XIII. *Venus*; XIV. *Scogan*; XV. *Marriage*; XVI. *Gentilesse*; XVII. *Proverbs*; XVIII. *Stedfastness*; XIX. *Fortune*; XX. *Purse*.
- LXII. Autotype Specimens of the chief Chaucer MSS. Part III: 2 from Henry V's MS of the *Troilus*, when he was Prince of Wales (now Mr Bacon Frank's); 1 from Shirley's MS of the *ABC* at Sion Coll.

The issue for 1881, in the **First Series**, will be chosen from,

- LXIII. The Six-Text, Part IX, with colord Lithographs of 6 Tellers of Tales and 6 emblematical Figures from the Cambridge Univers. MS Gg. 4. 27; Forewords, Title-pages for the three volumes, &c.; and Prof. Hiram Corson's Index to the Subjects and Names of *The Canterbury Tales*.
- LXIV to LXIX. 6 Appendixes to the 6 MSS of the Six-Text, with Woodcuts and colord Lithographs of 6 Tellers of Tales and of 6 emblematical Figures from the Cambridge Univ. MS, Gg. 4. 27, &c., and colord Lithographs of the 23 Ellesmere MS Miniatures. The Hengwrt MS, Part VI, will contain The Canon's-Yeoman's Tale, from the Lichfield Cathedral MS.
- LXX. Part II of Mr W. M. Rossetti's Comparison of Chaucer's *Troilus and Cryseyde* with Boccaccio's *Filostrato*. [Ready.]
- LXXI. A Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's *Troilus* from the Campsall MS, b. 1415 A.D. (written for Henry V when Prince of Wales), Harleian 2280, and Cambr. Univ. Libr. Gg. 4. 27. [Ready.]

Prof. Hiram Corson has also agreed to edit the Society's *Chaucer Concordance*. For 1882, Miss Isabel Marshall and Miss Lela Porter are making a *Ryme-Index to Chaucer's Minor Poems*. To their Subjects and Names, Prof. H. Corson is making an Index. For 1884, or 1885, Chaucer's *Boece* is ready for the First Series.

Among the Texts and Essays, &c., preparing for the Chaucer Society are:—

Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part V (*to be ready in 1882 or 1883*).

Autotype Specimens of the chief Chaucer Manuscripts, by F. J. Furnivall, Pt IV.

The Tale of *Beryn*, Part II. Introduction and Glossary, by Messrs Furnivall and W. G. Stone.

Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part V: 13. Chaucer's *Pardoner*: his character illustrated by documents of his time, by Dr J. J. Jusserand. 14. Why the *Romaunt of the Rose* is not Chaucer's, by Prof. Skeat, M.A. 15. (Probably) Chaucer's *Shipman*, by P. Q. Karkeek, Esq., of Dartmouth. 16. Chaucer's *Parson's Tale* compared with Frère Lorens's *Somme des Vices et des Vertus*, by Herr H. Simon.

Chaucer's *Road to Canterbury*, with Ogilby's Plan of it, 1675, and William Smith's Plan of the City of Canterbury in 1588; by the Rev. W. A. Scott Robertson, M.A., Hon. Sec. of the Kent Archæological Institute.

Life-Records of Chaucer, Part III, The Household book of Isabella, wife of Prince Lionel, third son of Edward III, in which the name of GEOFFREY CHAUCER first occurs; edited from the unique MS in the Brit. Museum, by Edward A. Bond, Esq., Chief Librarian. Part IV, Other Enrolments and Documents from the Public Record Office, the City of London Town-Clerk's Office, &c., edited by Walford D. Selby, Esq., and F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

'A detaild Comparison of Chaucer's *Knight's Tale* with the *Teseide* of Boccaccio,' by HENRY WARD, Esq., of the MS Department of the British Museum. [At Press.]

& here bygnnep

þe Prologe of þe Milleres tale

¶ The Prologe

Whan þat þe knyght had þus his tale told
In al the companye nas þer 3onge ne olde
þat he ne seide it was a noble storie

And worþi to be drawe in memorie 3112

And namely the gentels euerechoñ

Our hooste loughe and swore so mot I goñ

This goþ a riȝt vnbokeled is þe male

Lat se nowe who shal telle anoþere tale 3116

ffor trewly þe game is wel bygonne

Now telleþ 3e sir monke 3if 3e conne

Somwhat to quyte wiþ þe knyghtes tale

The Miller' þat for-dronke was al pale 3120

So þat vnneþes vppon his hors he satte

He wold availe neiþe hode ne hatte

Ne abide no man for his curtesie [leaf 44]

But in Pilates vois he bygan to crie 3124

And swore by armes blode and bones

I can a noble tale for þe nones

Wiþ þe which I wil now quyte þe knyȝtes tale

Our' [hooste] seghe þat he was dronke of ale 3128

And seide abide Robyn leue brother'

Somme better man shal telle vs first' anoþer'

Abide and [let] us wirche thriftely

By goddes soule quod he þat wil not I 3132

ffor I wil speke or ellis go my way

Our hooste answerd seye on a deuel way

Thou arte a fool þi witt is ouercommen

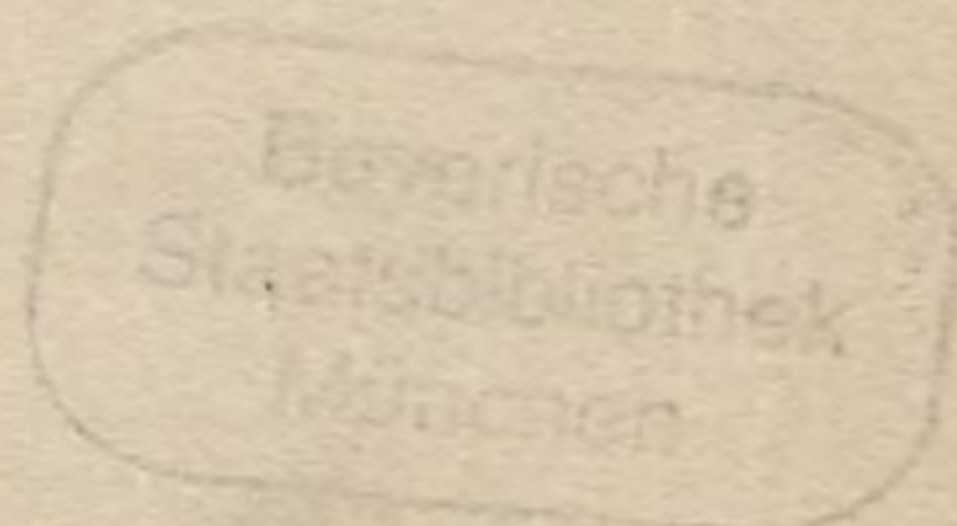
Now harkenep quod þe myllere al and som 3136

¶ But first I make a protestacioun

þat I am dronke I knowe it by my soun

And þerfore 3if I mysspeke or say

Wite it þe Ale of suthwerk I 3ou pray 3140



ffor I will telle a legend^t and a liff
 Bop of a Carpenter^r and [of] his wiff
 How þat^t a clerke reft^t the wriȝtes cappe
 The reue answerd^t and seide stint^t of þi clappe 3144
 Lat^t be þi lewde dronken harlotrie
 It is a synne and eke a grete folye
 To appeyren eny man or hym diffame
 And eke to bringe wives in such^h name 3148
 þow maist^t ynowe of oþer þingges seine
 þis dronken Millere spake ful sone ageyñ
 And seide leue broþer oswalde
 Who hap^t no wif. is no kukwold^t 3152
 But^t I seie not^t þerfor þat^t þou art ooñ
 Ther ben ful good[e] wyues mony oñ
 [.
 no gap in the MS.] 3156
 Whi art^t þou angry wiþ my tale nowē
 I haue a wiff parde as wel as þou/
 ȝit^t nolde I for þe oxen in my plogh
 Take vpon me more þan ynogh 3160
 As demen of my seluen þat^t I were oone [leaf 44, back]
 I wil bylieue þat^t þat^t I am none
 An husbond^t shuld^t not^t be inquesitif
 Of goddes priuete ne of his wif 3164
 So he may finde goddes foyson þere
 Of þe remenant^t nedep nat^t to enquire
 What^t shuld^t I more seie but^t þe Millere
 He nyl his wordes for no man for-bere 3168
 But^t tolde his Chirles tale in his manere
 Me forþenkep^t þat^t I shal reherce it here
 And þerfore euery gentil wiȝt^t I preie
 Demep^t not^t for goddes loue þat^t I seie 3172
 Of euel entent^t but^t for I mote reherce
 Her tales alle be þei better^r or wors/
 Or ellis fals somen of my matere
 And þerfore who list^t it not^t here 3176

Torne ouer þe lief and chese anoþer tale
 ffor ȝe shul fynde ynow grete *and* smale
 Of historial þinge þatʼ toucheþ gentilnesse
 And eke moralite and holynesse 3180
 Blame notʼ me ȝif þatʼ ye chese amys
 The Millere is a cheerle ȝe knowe wel þis
 So was the Reue eke and other moo
 And harlotrie þei toldʼ boþ twoo 3184
 Avise ȝou and putʼ me outʼ of blame
 And eke men shal notʼ make earnestʼ of game
 Thus endep þe prologe.

[*No break in the MS.*]

And here by-

gynneþ þe Millers Tale.

¶ Narracio

Whilom þer was dwelling^t in Oxenford^t
 A riche gnof^t þat^t gestes helde to bord^t 3188
 And of his craft^t he was a Carpenter^t
 Wiþ him þer was dwelling^t a pore scolere
 Had lerned arte but^t al his fantasie
 Was turned forto lere Astrologie 3192
 And cowde a certeyn of conclusions
 To demen by interrogaciõs.
 3if þat^t men axed him incerteyn houres [leaf 45]
 Whan þat^t men shuld^t haue drouzte of shoures 3196
 Or 3if men axed him what^t shuld^t byfalle
 Of euery þing^t I may not^t rekne alle
 This tale was cleped hende Nicholas
 Of derne loue and priue solas 3200
 And þerto he was sclegħ and ful priue
 And liche to a maiden meke to see
 A chambre had he in þat^t ostelrie
 Allone wiþ-out^t eny companye 3204
 fful fetist^t dight^t wiþ herbes swote
 And he hym self as swete as is þe rote
 Of licorace or ony sytuale
 His almagist^t and bokes grete *and* smale 3208
 His aster-laboure longinge for his arte
 His awgryme stones layen ful faire aparte
 On shelues couched at his beddes heuede
 His presse ykeuered wiþ a falding^t rede 3212
 And al aboue þer lay a gay sautrie
 On which he made on nyghtes melodye
 So swetely þat^t al þe chambre ronge
 And angelus ad virginem he songe 3216
 And after þat^t he songe þe kingges note
 fful ofte blessed was his mery þrote

And þus þe swete Clerk^t his tyme spente
 Aftere his frendes fynding^t and his rente 3220
 This Carpentere had wedded newe a wiff
 Which þat^t he loued more þan his liff
 Of xvij. 3ere she was of age
 Ielous he was and kept^t hir^t streit^t in cage 3224
 ffor she was wily and yonge and he was olde
 And demed hym self to be like a Cukwolde
 He knewe not^t Caton for his wit^t is rude
 þat^t bad man shuld^t wedde his similitude 3228
 Men shul wedde aftere her estate
 ffor 3oupe and elde is oft^t at^t debate
 But sith he was fallen in þe snare [leaf 45, back]
 He most^t enduren as oþer folk his care 3232
 ffair was þis yonge wif and þer wip^t aȝt
 As eny weseȝt her body gent^t *and* smaȝt
 A seynt^t she wered barred al of silk^t
 A barmecloþe as white as morn[e] mylk^t 3236
 Vpon her lendes ful of mony a gore
 White was hir smok^t and enbrauded al byfore
 And eke be-hinde on her coler^t aboute
 Of Cole-blak silk^t with-Inne and eke wip^t-oute 3240
 The tapes of hir^t white volipere
 Were of þe same sute of hir colere
 Hir^t Philett brode of silk *and* sette ful hie
 And sikerly she had a lykerous ye 3244
 fful smal ypulled were her browes twoo/
 And þoo were bent^t and blake as eny sloo/
 She was more blisful on to se
 þan is þe newe Perient^t tree 3248
 And softer þan þe wolff is of eiper^t
 And by hir^t girdel henge a purs of leder^t
 Tasshed wip^t silk and perled with latoun
 In al þis worlde to seke vp and down 3252
 Ther nys no man so wise þat^t coupe þenche
 So gay a popelot^t or [such] a wenche

fful briȝt was the shynyng^t of her hwe
 Than in þe toure þe noble forged newe 3256
 But of her songe it was as loude *and* ȝerne
 As eny swalowe sittinge on a beerne
 Þerto she coupe skippe and make a game
 As eny kid or calf folowing^t his dame 3260
 Her mouþe was swete as braket or meth
 Or horde of apples leide in hay or hetþ
 Wynsinge she was as is a Ioly colt
 Longe as a mast^t and vpward^t as a bolt 3264
 A broche she bare on her loue coler^t
 As brode as is þe boos of a bokelere
 Her shoes were laised on her legges hie [leaf 46]
 She was a Primeroff a Pigges nye 3268
 ffor eny lorde to liggen in his bedde
 Or ȝit^t for eny [good] ȝeman to wedde
 Now sir^t and eft^t sir^t. and so bifelle þe caas
 That on a day þis heende Nicholas / 3272
 felle wiþ þis yonge wif forto rage *and* play
 While þat her husbonde was at osenay
 As clerkes bene ful subtile and ful queynte
 And prively he kauȝt^t hur^t by þe queynte 3276
 And seide ywis but I haue my wille
 ffor deerne loue of þe lemman I spille
 And helde hure fast^t by þe haunche bonys
 And seide lemman my wiȝt at onys 3280
 Or I wil die as god me saue
 And she spronge as a colt^t in traue
 And wiþ her hede sche wried fast^t away
 She saide I wil not^t kisse þe by my fay 3284
 Wy labbe quod she latt be Nicholas
 Or I wil crie out^t harowe *and* alas
 Do way ȝoure hondes for ȝour curtesie
 This Nicholas gan mercy forto crie 3288
 And spake so faire *and* profred him ful fast
 þat she her loue graunted hym atte last^t

And swoor hir' oope by seint' Thamas of kent
 That she wolde bene at his comaundement 3292
 Whan þat she may hir' laizere wel asprie
 Myn husbonde is so ful of Ielousie
 þat but 3e waite wele *and* by prive
 I woote ri3t wel I ne am but dede quod she 3296
 3e mote be ful deerne as in þis caas
 Nay þerof care 3ou not quod Nicholaas
 A Clerk has liþerly bysette his while
 But 3if he couþe a carpenter' begile 3300
 And þus þei acorded and sworne
 To awaite a tyme as I haue seide biforn
 Whan Nicholas had don þus euery dele [leaf 46, back]
 And twakked her aboute þe lendes welle 3304
 He kisseþ her swete and takeþ his sautrie
 And pleieþ fast and makeþ melodye
 þan fille it þus þat to þe parissĥ chirche
 Cristes werkes for to wirche 3308
 This good wif went vpon an halyday
 Hir' forhede shoon as bri3t as eny day
 So was it wasshe whan she left her werk
 Now was þere of þe chirĥ a parissĥ clerk 3312
 þe which was cleped absalon
 Crulle was his heer' and as þe golde shone
 And strouted as [a] fanne large *and* brode
 fful streite and euene laie his Ioly shode 3316
 His rudde was rede his eyen grey as goos
 Wip Powles wyndowes corven in his shoos
 In hosen rede he wente fetisly
 I-clad he was ful smal and proprely 3320
 Al in a kirtel of light wagett
 fful faire and þikke ben þe poyntes sette
 And þer-vpon he had [a] gay surplise
 As white as is þe blossom on [the] rise 3324
 A mery child he was so god me saue
 Wel coude he late blood [and] clippe and shaue

And make a chartere of londe or a quyttaunce
 In xx^{ti} maners coude he trippe *and* daunce 3328
 After the scole of Oxenforde þoo
 And wiþ his legges casten to and froo
 And pleyen songes on a small rybibe
 Some he songe a loude quynybe 3332
 As as wel coude he pley on a gytern
 In al þe towne nas brewhous ne tauern
 þat he ne viset wiþ his solas
 þer eny gailerd tapster was 3336
 But soth to sayn he was somdele squeymous
 Of fartinge *and* of speche daungerous
 This Absolon þat was Ioly *and* gay [leaf 47]
 Gop wiþ a sensure on þe sonday 3340
 Sensinge þe wyues of þe parisshe fast
 And mony a louely loke on hem he cast
 And namely on þe Carpenters wiff
 To loke on hyr him þouȝt a mery liff 3344
 She was so propre . swete . *and* likerous
 I dar wel say and she had be a mous
 And he a Catt he wold hire hent anōn
 This parisshe clerk þis Ioly absolōn 3348
 Hap in his herte such a loue longynge
 That of no wiff toke he non offringe
 For curtesie he seide he wolde none
 The mone whan it was nyȝt briȝt shone 3352
 And absolon his giterne hap [i]take
 For paramours he þouȝte forto wake
 And forþe he gop Ielous and amerous
 Til he come to þe Carpenter[e]s hous 3356
 A litel aftere þe Cok had ycrowe
 And dressed hym vnder a shette wyndowe
 That was vpon þe Carpenter[e]s walle
 He singeþ in his vois gentile *and* smalle 3360
 Now dere lady ȝif þi wil be
 I prei ȝou þat ȝe wil rewe on me

Ful wel according^t to his giternynge
 This Carpentere a-woke and herd^t hym singe 3364
 And spake vnto his wif and seide anon
 What^t alison herest^t þou not^t Absolon
 þat^t chaunteþ þus vndere our boures waft
 And she answerd^t her husbond^t þer wip aft 3368
 3is god wote Iohn I here it^t euery dele
 þis passeþ forþ what^t wil 3e than but wele
 ffro day to day þis Ioly absolon
 So woweþ hire þat^t hym was woo-bygon 3372
 He wakeþ al þe ny3t^t and al þe day
 He kembeþ his lockes brode and made hem gay
 He woweþ hir^t by menes and brocage [leaf 47, back]
 And swoor he wolde bene her wne page 3376
 He Syngeþ brokking^t as a nyghtyngale
 He sent^t her pyment^t Methe and spised ale
 And wafres pyping hote out^t of þe glede
 And to hir^t often he profered mede 3380
 ffor some wil be wonnen for riches
 And some for strokes and some for gentilnesse
 Somtyme to shewe his lightnesse and maisstrie
 He pleieth herawdes vpon a scaffold^t hie 3384
 But what^t availleþ him as in þis caas
 So loueth she þis hende Nicholaas
 That^t Absolon may blawe þe buke horn
 He ne had for his labour but^t a scorn 3388
 And þus she makeþ absolon her Ape
 Al his eernest turneþ but^t to a Iape
 ffor soþe þis prouerbe it^t is no lye
 Men seien þus alway þe ny3te scлие 3392
 Makeþ þe feer loue to be loth
 ffor þou3e þat^t absolon be wode or wroth
 By cause þat^t he fer was from her sizt^t
 This Ni3te Nicholas stode in his li3t^t 3396
 Nowe bere 3ou wel thou hende Nicholas/
 ffor absolon may waille *and* singe allas

And so by-felle it' on a Saterdag
 This Carpenter was gone to Osnay 3400
 And hende Nicholas and Alison
 Accorded were to þis conclusiō
 þat' Nicholas shal shapen hym a wile
 This sely Ielous husbonde to begile 3404
 And if so be þe game went' a riȝt'
 She shulde slepe in his arme al þat' nyȝt'
 For þis [was] his desire and hers also
 And riȝt' anon wiþ-oute wordes moo/ 3408
 This Nicholas no lenger wold tarie
 But' doþ ful softe into his chamber carie
 Both mete and drinke for a daye or tweye [leaf 48]
 And to hir' husbonde bad hir' for to seie 3412
 If þat' he asked after Nicholas
 She shulde seie she nyst' not' wher he was
 Of al þat' day she see hym not' wiþ ye
 She trowed þat' he was in maladye 3416
 ffor no crie her maide can calle
 He nolde answeere for nouȝt' that' may bifalle
 This passeþ forþ al þe Saterdag
 That' Nicholas stille in his bed lay 3420
 And ete and slepte and [dede] what' hym lest'
 Til sonday þat' þe sonne goþ to rest'
 This sely Carpenter' hap grete mervaile
 Of Nicholas or what' þing' myȝt' hym aile 3424
 And saide I am a-drad by seynt' Thomas
 It' stondeth not' a-riȝt' wiþ Nicholas
 God shilde þat' he deyed sodenily
 This world is now ful tikil sikerly 3428
 I seghe to-day a coors born to chirche
 That' now on monday I segħ fast' wirche
 Go vp quod he to his knaue anō
 Clepe at' his door or knokke wiþ a stoñ 3432
 Loke howe it' is and telle me boldely
 þis knaue went' him vp ful sturdely

And at the Chamber door while þat he stode
 He cried an knocked as he were wode 3436
 What howe what do 3e maister Nicholay
 Howe may 3e sclopen al þis longe day
 But al for nouȝt he herd neuer a word
 An hoole he foonde ful lowe vnder a bord 3440
 Ther as þe Catt was wonte forto crepe
 And at þe hole he loked in ful depe
 And atte last he had of him a sizt
 þis Nicholas satte euere gaping vp riȝt 3444
 As he had kiked on þe newe moone
 And doune he goþ and told his maister sone
 In what araie he segþ þat ilke man [leaf 48, back]
 This carpentere to blissen hym by-gan 3448
 And seide helpe vs seint ffredeswyde
 A man wote litel what shal hym betide
 This man is fallen wiþ his astronomye
 In some woodnesse or in some Agonye 3452
 I þouȝt wel howe it shuld be
 Men shuld not knowe of goddis private
 3e blessed be alway þe lewde man
 þat nouȝt but only his bileeue can 3456
 So ferde anoþer clerk with astronomye
 He walked into þe feeldes for to prie
 Vpon þe sterres to wit what shal by-falle
 Til he was in a Marle pitte yfalle 3460
 He seighe noȝt but yit by seint Thomas
 Me rueþ soor hende Nicholas
 He schal be rated of his stodying
 If þat I may by Ihesu¹ heuene knyge [1 MS 1hc] 3464
 Gete me a staf þat I may vnderspore
 While þat þou Robyn heuest vp þe dore
 He shal out of his stodying as I gesse
 And to þe Chamber dore he gan hym dresse 3468
 His knaue was a stronge Carle for þe nones
 And by þe haspe he haue it vp at ones

Into þe floor þe door fille anoñ
 This Nicholas sat ay stille as stoñ 3472
 And euere gaped vpward into þe eire
 þis carpenter wende he were in despeir
 And hent hym by þe shuldres myztely
 And shoke him hard and cried spitously 3476
 What Nicholay what loke adoun
 A-wake and þenk on cristes passioun
 I crouche þe from eveles and fro wiztes
 þer-with þe nyzt spelle he seide anoñ riȝtes 3480
 On four halues of the hous aboute
 And on þe thresshold on þe dore withoute
 Ihesu crist and seynt Benedight [leaf 49]
 Blesse þis hous from euery wicked wight 3484
 ffor þe nyghtes verye þe white pater noster
 Where wentestowe . seynt Peters suster
 And atte last þis hende Nicholas
 Gan for to sighe sore and seide allas 3488
 Shal al þe world be loste eftsones now
 This Carpenter answerde what seist þowe
 What þenk on god as we doñ þat swynk
 This Nicholas answerde focche me drink 3492
 And aftere I wil speke in privete
 Of certeyn þing þat towcheþ þe and me
 I wille telle it noon oþer man cereteyne
 This carpenter goþ down and commeþ ageyne 3496
 And brouȝt of myghty ale a large quarte
 And whan þat eche of hem had dronke his parte
 þis Nicholas his door fast shette
 And doun þe Carpenter by hym he sette 3500
 And seide Iohñ myn hooste lief and dere
 þow shalt vpon þi trouþ swere me heere
 That to no wight þou shalt þis counseil wrey
 ffor it is cristes counsaile þat I sey 3504
 And if þu telle it man þou art forlore
 ffor þis vengeannce þou shalt haue þerfore

þat if þow wrey me þou shalt be wode
 ¶ Nay crist forbede it for his holy blood 3508
 Quod þoo þis sely man I ne am no labbe
 Ne þough I seie it I ne am not lief to gabbe
 Sey what þowe wolt I shal it neuer telle
 To Childe ne wif by hym þat harowed helle 3512
 Nowe Iohn quod Nicholas I wil not lie
 I haue yfounden in myn astrologie
 As I haue loked in þe mone briȝt
 þat nowe on monday next a quarter nyȝt 3516
 Shal falle a rayn and þat so wild *and* wode
 þat half so grete was never noes flode
 This world he saide in lasse þan in an houre [leaf 49, back]
 Shal al be dreint so hidous is þe showre 3520
 Thus shal mankinde drenche and lese her liff
 This Carpenter answerd alas my wiff
 And shal she drenche alas myn alisoun
 ffor sorowe of þis he fille al-most adoun 3524
 And seide is no remedye in þis caas
 Wy ȝis for god quod heende Nicholas
 If þow wolte worchen aftere lore and rede
 þowe maist not worchen after þine owne hede 3528
 ffor þus seith salomon þat was ful trewe
 Worche al by counsaile *and* þou shalt not rewe
 And if þou worchen wolt by good counsaile
 I vndertake wiþ-uten mast or saille 3532
 ȝit shal I saue hir *and* þe and mee
 Hast þou not herd how saued was Noe
 Whan þat our lorde haþ warned hym byforn
 þat al the world wiþ water shuld be lorn 3536
 ȝis quod þis Carpenter ful ȝore a-goo
 Hastowe not herde quod Nicholas also
 þe sorowe of Noe wiþ his felawship
 Or he myȝt gete his wif to ship 3540
 Hym had leuere I dar wel vndertake
 At þilke tyme þan aft his weþeres blake

þat she had a ship hure self allōn
 And þerfor woostowe what is best to doñ 3544
 Thix axeth hast and of an hastif þinge
 Men may not preche or make taryinge
 Anoon go gete vs fast into þis Inne
 A knedinge trough or ellis a kemelyne 3548
 ffor eche of vs but loke þat þei bene large
 In whiche men mowe swymme as in a barge
 And han her vitailles suffisaunt
 But for a day fye on þe remenaunt 3552
 þe water shal a-slake and goñ a-way
 Aboute pryme vpon þe nexte day
 But Robyne may not wit of þis þi knaue [leaf 50]
 Ne eke þi maide Giff I may not saue 3556
 Axe not why for þouze þou axe me
 I wil not tellen goddes priuete
 It suffiseþ þe but if þi wittes madde
 To haue as grete a grace as Noe hadde 3560
 þi wif shal I wel saue out of doute
 Go nowe þi way and spede þe here aboute
 But whan þou hast for hir and þe and me
 ygeten vs þise kneding treies þre 3564
 þan shalt þou honge hem in þe roof ful hie
 þat no man of oure purueaunce espie
 And whan þou þus hast doñ as I haue seide
 And hast oure vitaille faire in hem y-leide 3568
 And eke an axe to smyte þe cord a two
 Whan þat þe water commeþ þat we may goo
 And broke and hole on high vpon the gable
 Vnto þe gardyne ward ouer þe stable 3572
 þat we may frely passen forþ our waye
 Whan þat þe grete shoure is passed awaye
 Than shalt þou swymme as mery I vndertake
 As doþ þe wight duk aftere þe drake 3576
 þan wol I clepe how alisoñ. howe Ioñ
 Be mery for þe flood wil passe anōn

And þowe wilt seyn heil Maister Nicholay
 Good morowe I see þe wele for it is day 3580
 And þan shal we be lordes al oure lif
 Of alle þe world as Noe and his wif
 But þat of oo þing I warne þe ful riȝt
 Be wel avised on þat ilk[e] nyȝt 3584
 þat we bene entred into þe shippes boord
 þat noon of vs ne speke not a word
 Ne Clepe ne crie but bene in his preire
 ffor it is goddis owe heeste dere 3588
 Thi wif and þou mote honge fer atwynne
 ffor þat bitwix ȝou shal be no synne
 No more in loking þan þer shal in dede [leaf 50, back]
 þis ordinaunce is seide so god þe spede 3592
 To morowe at nyȝt whan men bene all a-slepe
 Into our kneding trowes wil we crepe
 And sitten þer abidinge goddis grace
 Go nowe þi way I haue no lenger space 3596
 To make of þis no lenger sermonyng
 Men seyn þus sende þe wise *and* say no þinge
 þou art so wise it nededeþ þe not teche
 Go saue our lif and þat I þe biseche 3600
 ¶ This sely Carpentere goþ forþ his way
 fful oft he seide alas and wayleway
 And to his wif he tolde his priuete
 And she was war and knewe it bet þan he 3604
 What al þis queinte cast was for to saye
 But nathelees she feerde as she wold deye
 And saide alas go foorþ þi way anon
 Helpe vs to scape or we bene dede echoñ 3608
 I am þi trewe verry wedded wiff
 Go dere spouse and helpe to saue our lif
 Lo swich a grete þing is affection
 Men may dye for ymaginaciō 3612
 So depe may impression be take
 This sely Carpenter bygynneþ quake

Hym þenkeþ verrelly þat he may se
 Noe flood come walking^t as þe See 3616
 To drenchen alison his hony dere
 He wepeth weilleth and maketh sori chere
 He sigheþ wiþ mony a sory swough
 And gooþ and geteþ hym a kneding³ trough 3620
 And aftere a Tubbe and a kemelyne
 And prively he sent^t hem to his Inne
 And henge hem in þe roof in privete
 His owne honde he made eke ledders þre 3624
 To clymben by þe ronges *and* þe stalkes
 Vnto þe tubbes hongyng^t in þe balkes/
 And hem vitailed boþ[e] trouze and tubbe [leaf 51]
 Wiþ brede. wiþ chese wiþh good ale in a Tubbe 3628
 Suffisinge riȝt^t ynowe as for a day
 But^t er he had made al þis aray
 He sent^t his knaue and eke his wenche alsoo
 Vpon his nede to Londoñ for to goo 3632
 ¶ And on þe Monday whan it^t drouze to nyȝt^t
 He shette his door wiþ-uten candel liȝt^t
 And dressed al þing^t as it^t shuld be
 And shortely clumben vp al þre 3636
 þei seiten stille wel a forlonge way
 Now *Pater noster* Clum seide Nicholay
 And Clum quod Iohn. and clum seide Alison
 This Carpenter seide his devociōn 3640
 And stille he sitte and biddeþ his preier^t
 Awaitinge on þe reyne if he it^t here
 The deþe sleep for wery bisynesse
 ffile on þis Carpenter riȝt^t as I gesse 3644
 Aboute Curfewe tyme or litel more
 ffor travaile of his goost^t he groneþ sore
 But^t ofte he routed for his hede myslay
 Doun of þe ledder stalkeþ Nicholay 3648
 And Alison ful softe adoune she spedde
 Wiþ-uten wordes moo þei goñ to bedde

þer as þe Carpenter' is wonte to lye
 þer was þe reuel and þe melodye 3652
 And þus lith alison and Nicholas
 In busynes of myrth *and* of solas
 Til þat' þe belle of laudes gan to rynge
 And freres in þe chaunsel gan to singe 3656
 ¶ This Pariss̄ clerk þis amorous absolōn
 þat' is for loue alway so woo bygoñ
 Vpon þe Monday was at' Oseney
 Wip Company him to disport' *and* pley 3660
 And axed vpon a caas a Cloystre
 fful prively after Iohn þe Carpentere
 And he drowe hym apart' out' of þe chirch [leaf 51, back]
 And seide I note I seghe hym here not wirch 3664
 Siþ saterday I trowe þat he be went'
 ffor tymbre þer oure abbot' haþ hym sent'
 ffor he is wonte for tymbre forto goo
 And dwellen at' þe graunge a day or twoo 3668
 Or ellis he is at' his hous certeyn
 Wher þat' he be I can not' soþly seyn
 This absolon ful Ioly was *and* lizt'
 And þought' now is tyme to wake al nyght' 3672
 ffor sikerly I segh hym not' stirenge
 Abouten his door siþ day bygan to springe
 So mote I thrive I shal atte Cockes crowe
 fful priuely knocken at' his wyndowe 3676
 þat' stant' ful lowe vpon his bowres walle
 To Alison now wil I tellen alle
 My loue longyng' for þat' I shal not' mysse
 þat' at' þe leeste wey I shal hir' kisse 3680
 Som manere comfort' shal I haue parfay
 My mouþe haþ icched al þis longe day
 þat' is a signe of kissing' atte leest
 Al nyght' me met' eek I was at' a fest' 3684
 þer-for I wil goo sclepe an hour or twey
 And al þe nyght' þan wil I wake *and* pley

Whan þat þe firste cok haþ crowe anon
 Vp stert þis Ioly loue absoloun 3688
 And hym araied gay and poynt devise
 But first he sheweþ greyn *and* licorise
 To smellen swote er he had kempt his here
 Vndere his tunge a trewe loue he bere 3692
 ffor þerby wende he to be gracious
 He roomeþ to the Carpenters hous
 And stille he stant vndere þe shot wyndowe
 Vnto his brest it raught it was so lowe 3696
 And soft he kougheþ wiþ a semy soun
 What do 3e hony combe swete alisoun
 My faire brid my swete Synamome [leaf 52]
 A-waikeþ lemman myne *and* spekeþ to me 3700
 fful litel þenken 3e vpon my woo
 þat for 3oure loue I swete as I goo
 No wonder is þouze that I swelt or swete
 I mourne as doþ þe lombe after þe tete 3704
 I-wis leuman I haue such loue-longyng
 þat like a turtel trewe is my mournynge
 I may not eten no more þan a maide
 Go fro þe wyndowe Iak fool she seide 3708
 So god me spede it wil not be compame
 I loue anoper and ellis I were to blame
 Wel bet þan þe by Ihesu absolon
 Go forþ þi waie or I wil cast a stoñ 3712
 And lat me slepe a twenty deuelway
 Alas quod absolon and weyloway
 That trewe loue was euere so euel bysette
 Than kisse me siþ it may be no bette 3716
 ffor Ihesus¹ loue and for þe loue of me [1 MS Ihes]
 Wilt þou þan go þi waie þer-with quod she
 3e Certes lemman quod þis absolon
 þan make þe redy quod she I come anon 3720
 [.
 no gap in the MS.]
 This absolon doune sette hym on his knees

And seid I am a lord at alle degrees 3724
 ffor aftere þis I hope þer commeth more
 Lemman þi grace and swete brid þine ore
 The wyndowe she vndop and þat in haste
 Haue doo quod she come of and spede þe faste 3728
 Lest þat our neigheboures þe espie
 þis absolon gan wipe his mouþ ful drie
 Derk was þe nyght as picch or as þe cole
 And at þe wyndowe out she putt her hole 3732
 And absolon him felle no bette ne wers
 But wiþ his mouþe he kissed her naked ers
 fful sauourly er he was ware of þis
 Abak he sterte and þought it was amys 3736
 ffor wel he wist a womman hap no berde [leaf 52, back]
 He felt a þing al roughe and longe yherede
 And seide fye alas what haue I doo
 Ti he quod she and clapt þe wyndowe to/ 3740
 And absolon goþ forþ a forþer paas
 A beerd a beerd seide hende Nicholaas
 By goddes corpus þis goþ faire *and* weft
 This sely absolon herde it euery deft 3744
 And on his lippe he gan for anger bite
 And to him self he seide I shal þe quyte
 Who rubbeth nowe who freteth nowe his lippes
 Wiþ dust wiþ sonde wiþ strawe wiþ cloþ *with* chippes/
 But absolon that seiþ ful oft alas 3749
 My soule bitake I to Sathanas
 But me were leuere þan al þis toune quod he
 Of þis despite a-wroken forto be 3752
 Allas quod he allas I ne had ybleynt
 His hote love is cold *and* al yqueynt
 ffor fro þat tyme þat he had kist her ers
 Of paramours he sette not a kers 3756
 ffor he was heled of his malady
 fful oft paramours he gan defie
 And wepeþ as dop a child þat is ybete
 A softe paas he went ouer þe strete 3760

Vnto a smyth men clepen dann Gervase
 That in his forge smyteþ plowh harnase
 He sharpeth share and culter bisily
 This absolon knockeþ al Esily 3764
 And seide vnto Gervays and þat anon
 What who art þou it am I absolon
 What Absolon. what cristes swete tre
 Why rise 3e so rathe .o benedicite 3768
 What eileþ 3ou som gay gerle god it wote
 Hap brou3t 3ou þus [up]on þe Vyrityte
 By seynt Noet 3e whote wele what I mene
 þis Absolon ne rou3te not a bene ./ 3772
 Of al þis pley no word a3ein he gaf [leaf 53]
 He had more towe on his dystaf
 þan Gervais knewe and seide frende so dere
 þe hote Cultere in þe Chymeney here 3776
 As lene it me I haue þerwip to doñ
 I wil bringe it a-geyn ful sone
 Gervais answerd certes were it gold
 Or in a poke nobles al vntold 3780
 Thou shuldest haue as I am trewe smyth
 A cristes foo what wil 3e do þerwith
 Therof quod absolon be as be may
 I shal tellen it þe to morowe day 3784
 And caught þe Culter by þe colde stele
 fful soft out atte door he gan stele
 And went vnto þe Carpenteres walle
 He koughed first and knocked þer wip aft 3788
 Vppon þe wyndowe right as he did eere
 þis Alison answerde who is þere
 þat knockeþ so I waraunt it a þeef
 We nay quod he god wote my swete leef 3792
 I am þine absolon þine derlinge
 Of gold quod he I haue þe brou3t a rynge
 My modere 3aue it me so god me saue
 fful fyn it is and þerto wel ygraue 3796

This wil I ȝeuen þe if þowe me kisse
 þis Nicholas was risen forto pisse
 And þouȝt he wold amenden al þe Iape
 He shulde kisse his ers er þat he scape 3800
 And vp þe wyndowe did he hastely
 And out his ers he putteþ priuely
 Ouer þe buttoke to þe haunche boñ
 And þerwiþ spake þis clerk þis absolone 3804
 Speke swete bridde I not wher þou art
 þis Nicholas anon lete fleigh a fart
 As grete as it had bene a þonder dent
 þat wiþ þe stroke he was almost yblent 3808
 And he was redy wiþ his yren hote
 [leaf 53, back]
 And Nicholas in þe ers he smote
 Of goþ þe skyn an honde brede aboute
 þe hote culter brenned so his toute 3812
 And for þe smerte he wende forto deye
 As he were wood for woo he gan to crye
 Help water water helpe for goddys hert
 This Carpenter out of his slomber stert 3816
 And herde oon crien water as he were wode
 And þouȝt allas now commeth noes flode
 He sette hym vp wiþout[e] wordes moo
 And wiþ an axe he smote þe cord a two 3820
 And doun goþ alle he fonde neiþer to selle
 Brede nor Ale til he com to þe selle
 Vpon þe floor *and* ther a swoun he lay
 Vp stert hir Alison and Nicholay 3824
 And criden out and horowe in þe strete
 þe neighbours boþ smale and grete
 Ronnen forto gawren on þis man
 þat a swonn lay boþ pale and wan 3828
 ffor wiþ þat falle he brusten hap his arme
 But stonden he most vnto his owne harme
 ffor whan he spak he was anon born doun
 Wiþ hende Nicholas and alisoun 3832

Thei tolde euery man þat he was wode
 He was agast so of þe Noes flode
 þorgh fantasie þat of his vanyte
 He had ybouzt hym kneding tubbes þre 3836
 And had hem honged in þe roof aboue
 And þat he preied hym for goddys loue
 To sitten in þe roof par companye
 þe folk gan laughen at his fantasie 3840
 And to the Roof þei kepen and þei gape
 And turned al his harme vnto a Iape
 ffor what so þis Carpenter answerd
 It was for nouzt no man his resoñ herd 3844
 Wiþ oþes grete he was so sworn a down [leaf 54]
 That he was holden woode in al þat town
 ffor euere clerk anoon riȝt helde wiþ oþer
 þei seide þe man is wood my leue broþer 3848
 And euere wight gan laughen at his strif
 Thus swyued was þe Carpenter[e]s wiff
 ffor al his keping and his Ielousie
 And Absalon haþ kissed her nethere ye 3852
 And Nicholas is scalded in his toute
 This tale is doñ and god saue al þe route.
 ¶ Here endep þe mylers tale.

[No break in the MS.]

¶ And þus byggyneþ þe **Prologe** of þe **Reues tale** ¶ Cap. 3^m.

Whan folk han laughen at þis nyce cas
 Of absolon and hende Nicholas 3856
 Dyuers folk dyuersly þei seide
 But for þe more parte þei louze *and* pleide
 Ne at þis tale I seghe no man hym greue
 But it were only Oswold þe Reue 3860
 Bycause he was of Carpenter[e]s craft
 A litel Ire in his herte laft
 He gan to grucche and blamed it a lite
 So thick quod he ful wele quouþ I þe quyte 3864
 Wiþ blering of a proude Millers ye
 If þat me list to speke of Ribawdye
 But ik am olde me list not pley for age
 Gras tyme is done my foder is forage 3868
 This white top writeþ myn olde 3eeres
 Myn hert is al so mowled as myn heeres
 But if I fare as doþ an open-ers
 þat ilke fruyte is euer lenger þe wers 3872
 Til it be roten in Mullok or in stre
 We olde men I drede so fare we
 Til we be roten can we not be ripe
 We hopen alway while þe hert wil pipe 3876
 ffor in our wille þer stikketh euer a naile
 To haue an hoor heer and a grene taile
 As haþ a leke for þough our myȝt be goñ [leaf 54, back]
 Our wille desireþ foly euer in oon 3880
 ffor whan we may not doñ þan wil we speke
 ȝit in oure asshed olde is fire yreke
 ffour gledes han we which I shal deuyse
 Auauntinge lying. angre. and coueitise 3884
 Thise four sparkles longeþ vnto elde
 Our olde lymes may wel bene vnwelde

But wil ne shal not faille þat is soth
 And ȝit haue I alwaye a coltes toth 3888
 As mony ȝere as it is passed henne
 Siþ þat my tap of lif byganne to renne
 ffor sikerly whan I was born anōn
 Dep drough þe tappe of lif and lete it goñ 3892
 And euere siþen haþ so þe tap yronne
 Til at almost al empty is þe tonne
 The strem of lif now droppeþ on þe chymbe
 þe sely tunge may wel rynge and chymbe 3896
 Of wrecchednesse þat passed is ful yore
 Wiþ olde folk saue dotage is no more
 ¶ Whan þat our ooste had herde þis sermonynge
 He gan to speke as lordly as a kinge 3900
 He seide what amounteþ al þis witte
 What shal we speke alday of holy writte
 The deuel made a Reue forto preche
 Or of a Souter' shipman or a lecche 3904
 Say forþ þi take and tary not þe tyme
 Loo Depford and it is almost prime
 Lo Greenwich þat mony a shrewe is Inne
 It were hie tyme þi tale forto bygynne 3908
 ¶ Now Sirs quod þis Oswold þe Reue
 I prei ȝou al þat ȝe ȝou not greue
 þouȝe I answeere and somdele sette hys houwe
 ffor leeful it is wiþ force . force of shouwe 3912
 This dronken Miller' haþ ytolde vs here
 Hou þat bigiled was a Carpentere
 Peraenture in scorn for I am ooñ [leaf 55]
 And by ȝoure leue I shal hym quyte anoñ 3916
 Riȝt in his Cheerles termes wil I speke
 I prei to god his nekke mot alto-breke
 He can wel in myn ye seen a stalk
 But in his owne he can not seen a balk' 3920
 ¶ Thus endeþ þe Prologe of þe Reue

And here bygynneþ þe Reeues tale

A t^t Trumpington not^t fer fro Caunterbruge
 Ther goþ a broke and over þat^t a brute
 Vpon þe whiche broke þer stonte a melle
 And þis is verrey soþ þat^t I 3ou telle 3924
 A Millere was þere dwelling^t mony a day
 As ony Pecok^t he was proude and gay
 Pipen he coupe an fisshen and nettes bete
 And turne Coppes *and* wel wrastel and shete 3928
 Ny by his belt^t he bare a longe panade
 And of a swerd^t ful trenchaunt was þe blade
 A Ioly popper bere he in his pouche
 Ther nas no man for perile durst^t hym touche 3932
 A Sheffield^t thwytel bere he in his hose
 Rounde was his face and camoyse was his nose
 As pilled as an ape was his sculle
 He was a market^t beter atte fulle 3936
 þer nas no wight^t þat durst^t hond on hym legge
 But^t if he swore he shuld anoñ abegge
 A theef he was forsop^t of corn and mele
 And þat^t a sleegh and vsaunt^t forto stele 3940
 His name was hoten deynezouse Symkyn
 A wif he hadde comen of nobel kyn
 The person^o of þe toune her fader was
 Wip^t hir he 3aue ful mony a panne of bras 3944
 ffor þat^t Symkyn shuld^t in his blood allie
 She was yfostred in a nonrie
 ffor Symkyn wold[e] no wif as he seide
 But^t she were wel ynorshed and a mayde 3948
 To Sauen his Astate of 3emanrie [leaf 55, back]
 And she was proude and peert^t as is a pie
 A ful feire sight^t was it^t vpon hem twoo/
 On holy daies byforn hir^t wold he goo/ 3952

Wiþ his typet bounden aboute his hede
 And she come aftere in a gite of rede
 And Symkyn had[de] hosen of þe same
 þer durst no wiȝt clepe hur' but' dame 3956
 Was noon so hardy þat' went' by þe way
 þat' wiþ hir' dorst' ones rage or play
 But' if he wold be sclayn of Symkyn
 Wiþ panade and wiþ knyf or boydekyn 3960
 ffor Ielous folk ben perylous euermoo
 Algates þei wolde her wyues wenden soo
 And eke for she was somdeft smoterlich
 She was as digne as water in a dich 3964
 As ful of hoker and of bismare
 Hire þouȝte þat' a lady shuld hir' spare
 What' for her kynrede and her nortelrie
 þat' she had lerned in þe Nonerie 3968
 A douȝtere had[de] þei bitwene hem twoo
 Of xx^{ti} ȝere wiþ-uten ony moo/
 Sauyng' a childe þat was of half ȝere age
 In cradel it' lay and was a propre page 3972
 This wenche thik and wel ygrowe was
 Wiþ Camoys nose and eyen as grey as glas
 Wiþ buttokes brode and brestes round *and* hie
 But' riȝt faire was hur' heor I wil not' lye 3976
 ¶ The person of þe toune for she was so faire
 In purpoos was to make hir' his aire
 Bop of his Cateft and of his messuage
 And straunge he made it' of hur' mariage 3980
 His purpoos was to bystowe hir' hie
 Into som worþi blood of Auncetrie
 ffor holy churches good most' be despended/
 On holy chirche blood þat' is descended/ 3984
 Therefore he wold' his holy blood honoure [leaf 56]
 þoo þat' he holy church shuld' devoure
 Grete soken hap þis mellere out' of doute
 With whete and malt of al þe londe aboute 3988

And namely þer was a grete colege
 Men clepen þe solere halle atte Cauntebrigge
 Ther was her whete and eke her malt' ygrounde
 And on a day it' happed in a stounde 3992
 Sik lay þe manciple on a maladie
 Mon wenden wishly þat' he shuld[e] dye
 ffor whiche þe Millere stale boþ mele *and* corn
 An hundred tyme more þan byforñ 3996
 ffor þer byforne he stale but' curteisly
 But' now he was a þeef outrageously
 ffor which þe wardeyne chidde *and* made fare
 But' þerof sette þe Millere not' a tare 4000
 He craked booste and swore it was not' soo/
 þan were þere yonge scolers two
 That' dwelten in þe halle of which I seie
 Teestif þei were and lusty forto pleye 4004
 And only for her merth̄ *and* reverye
 Vpon þe wardeyn bisily þei crie
 To ȝeue hem leue but' a litel stounde
 To goo to melle and se her corn y-grounde 4008
 And hardely þei dorst' lay her nekke
 þe Millere shuld' not' stele hem half a pekke
 Of corn ne by sleight' ne by force hem reue
 And at' þe last' þe wardeyn ȝaf hem leue 4012
 Iohn hight' þat' oon an Aleyn hiȝt' þat' oþer'
 Of oon toune were þei born þat' hight[e] strother'
 fferre in þe norþe I can not' telle where
 This Aleyn makeþ redy al his gere 4016
 And on an hors þe sak he cast' anōn
 fforþ goþ Aleyn þe Clerc' and also Iohn
 Wiþ good swerde and bokeler' by her side
 Iohn knewe þe way hym neded no gyde 4020
 And atte Mille þe Sak a doune he laith [leaf 56, back]
 Alayn spake first' alhaille Symonde in faip
 How fareþ þi fare douȝtere and þi wiff
 Aleyn welcome quod Symkyn be my liff 4024

And Iohn also how nowe what do 3e here
 By god quod Iohn Symond^d nede haþ no pere
 Hym byhouep^p serue hym self þat^t haþ no swayn
 Or ellis he is a fool as clerkes sayne 4028
 Our manciple I hope he wil be dede
 Swa worchen hym ay þe wanges in his hede
 And þerfore is I comen and eke Aleyn
 To Grynde our corn and carie hit^t hom['] ageyn 4032
 We prey 3ou spede vs hepen þat^t 3e may
 It^t shal be done quod Symkyn be my fay
 What^t wil 3e done while þat^t it^t is in hande
 By God ri3t^t by the hoper wil I stande 4036
 Quod Iohn and see how gates þe corn goþ Inne
 3it^t sagh I neuere be my fadere kynne
 How þat^t þe hoper waggeþ til *and* fraye
 Aleyn Answerd^d Iohan wiltowe swaye 4040
 þan wil I be byneþe by my croune
 And se howe gate the mele falles adoun
 Into þe trough þat^t shal be my disport^t
 Quod Iohn in faath I may bene of 3our['] sorte 4044
 I is as il a Miller as is 3e
 This Millere smyled of her nycete
 And þou3t^t al þis is doñ but^t for a wile
 þei wene þat^t no man may hem bygyle 4048
 But^t by my þrift^t 3it^t shal I blere her ye
 ffor al þe slei3t^t in her philosophie
 The more queynte Clerkes þat^t þei make
 þe more wil I stele whan I take 4052
 In stede of floure 3it wil I 3eue hem brenne
 The grettest^t clerkes ben not^t þe wisest men
 As whilom to þe wolf þus spake þe mare
 Of alle her arte counte I nou3t^t a tare 4056
 Out^t at^t þe Dore he goþ ful priuely [leaf 57]
 Whan þat^t he seghe his tyme softly
 He lokeþ vp and doune til he haþ founde
 The Clerkes hors þer as he stode ybounde 4060

Behinde þe mylle vndere a leueselle
 And to þe hors he goþ hym faire and welle
 He strepeþ of þe bridel riȝt anōn
 And whan þe hors is louse he gynneþ to goñ 4064
 Towardþ þe fenne where wilde Mares renne
 And forþe-wiþ þorgh þikke and þorgh þenne
 This Mellere goþ ageyn no word he seide
 But doþ his note and wiþ þise clerkes pleide 4068
 Til þat her corn was faire and welle ygrounde
 And whan þe mele is sakked and ybounde
 This Iohn goþ oute and fonde her hors away
 And gan to crie harowe and walowway 4072
 Our hors is lost aleyn for goddis banes/
 Steppe on þi fete come of man / al at anes
 Allas our wardeyn haþ our palfray lorñ
 This Aleyn forgate boþ mele and corñ 4076
 Al was out of his mynde his husbondrie
 What whilk way is he goñ he gan to crie
 þe wif come lepinge inward at a renne
 She seide alas ȝoure hors goþ to þe fenne 4080
 With wilde mares as fast as he may goo
 Vnþonke come on his honde þat bonde hym soo/
 And he þat better shuld haue knette þe reyñ
 Allas quod Iohn Aleyn for cristes peyñ 4084
 Lay doune þi swerde and I wil myn alswaa
 I is ful swift god wate as is a Raa
 By goddes hert he shal not scape vs bathe
 Whi ne had þou putte þe Capel in þe lathe 4088
 Ilhaile by god Aleyn þou is a fonne
 Thise sely clerkes han ful fast yronne
 Touardþ þe fenne bopen aleyn an eke Iohn
 And whan þe Miller' segþ þat þei were goñ 4092
 He half a busshel of her floure haþ take [leaf 57, back]
 And bad his wif go knede it in a cake
 And seide I trowe þe clerkes weren a-ferde
 ȝit kan a Miller make a clerkes beerde 4096

ffor al her arte 3it^t lat^t hem goñ her way
 Lo wher þei gon 3e lat^t þe children play
 They gete him not^t so lightly by my croun
 Thise sely clerkes rennen vp and doun 4100
 With kepe. kepe. stonde. stonde. Iossa warderere
 Ga qwistel 3ou I shal kepe hym here
 But^t shortely til it^t was verrey ny3t
 þei coupe not^t þoughe þei did al her my3t^t 4104
 þeire Capel cauche he ranne alway so fast^t
 Til in a dicche þei caught^t him at þe last^t
 Wery and wete as beestis in þe reyne
 Commeþ sely Iohn and wip hym commeþ aleyñ 4108
 Allas quod Iohn þe day þat^t I was born
 Nowe are we dryuen til heping^t *and* to scorñ
 Our corn is stolle men wil vs foles calle
 Bop þe wardeyn and our felawes alle 4112
 And namely þe Meller^t weylawaye
 þus pleyneþ Iohn as he goþ by þe waye
 Toward^t the Melle and baiard^t in his honde
 The Millere sitting^t by þe fire he fonde 4116
 ffor it^t was nyght^t and ferþer myght^t he nou3t^t
 But^t for þe loue of god þei hym bisou3t^t
 Of harborowe and of ease as for her penye
 þe Millere seide a3ein if þer be enye 4120
 Such^t as it^t is 3ete shal 3e haue 3oure parte
 Myn hous is streite but^t 3e han lerned arte
 3e can by argumente make a place
 A myle brode of xx^{ti} fete of space 4124
 Lat^t se nowe if þis place may suffise
 Or make it rowmer wip speche as is 3our gise
 Now Symond^t seide þis Iohn be seynt^t Cutberd^t
 Ay is þou mery . and þat is faire answerde 4128
 I haue herde seye men shal taken of two þingges [leaf 58]
 Such^t as he fint^t or take such^t as he bringes
 But specially I prey þee hooste dere
 Gete vs some mete and drink and make vs chere 4132

And we wil paien trewly atte fulle
 Wiþ empty hondes men may not haukes tulle
 Lo here our siluer redy forto spende
 This Mellere to þe toune his douȝter sende 4136
 ffor Ale and brede and rosted hem a goos
 And bonde her hors for he shuld no more go loos
 And in his owne chambre he made a bedde
 Wiþ shetes and wiþ chalons faire yspredde 4140
 Nouȝt from his owne bedde .x. fete or xij,
 His doughter had a bed al by hir' selue
 Riȝt in þe same chambre by *and* by
 It myghte be no bette and cause why 4144
 þer was no rommer herborowe in þe place
 þei soupen and þei speken hem to solace
 And drynken euere stronge ale atte beste
 About mydnyȝt went þei to reste 4148
 Wel haþ þis Mellere vernyssed his hede
 fful pale he was for-dronken and not rede
 He ȝeskep and he spekep þorgh þe nose
 As he ware in þe quakke or on þe pose 4152
 To bedde he goop and wiþ hym goþ his wif
 As eny Iaye he light was and Iolif
 So was her Ioly whistel wel ywette
 þe Cradel at her beddis fete is ysette 4156
 To Rokken and to ȝeue þe child to souke
 And whan þat drunken was al in þe crouke
 To bedde went þe doughter riȝt anōn
 To bedde goþ Aleyn and also Ioħn 4160
 þer nas no more hem neded no dwale
 This Mellere haþ so wisly bebbed ale
 þat as an hors he snortep in his slepe
 Ne of his tale behynde he toke no kepe 4164
 His wif bare him a Burdoñ a ful stronge
 Men myght here þe routing þens a forlonge
 The wenche routeþ eek *par* companye
 Aleyn þe Clerk þat herd þis melodye 4168

[leaf 58, back]

He pouked on Iohn and seide slepestowe
 Herde þou euere slike a sang^t or nowe
 Lo slike a conplinge is ytwix hem alle
 A wilde fire on her bodies falle 4172
 Who herkened euere slike a ferly þinge
 3e þei shal haue þe floure of euel endinge
 This lange nyȝt^t þer tydes men no reste
 But^t ȝit^t na fors al shal be for þe beste 4176
 ffor Iohn seide he as euere mote I þrive
 If þat^t I may ȝon wenche þan wil I swyve
 Some esement^t hap^t lawe shapen vs
 ffor Iohn þer is a lawe þat^t seiþ þus 4180
 That^t if a man in oon point^t be agreued
 That^t in anoþer he shal be releued
 Our corn is stollen soþly it^t is no nay
 And we han had an euel fit to day 4184
 And syn I shal haue no amendement^t
 Ageyn my losse I wil haue esement^t
 By goddes saule it^t sal na noþer be
 þis Iohn answerde Aleyn avise þe 4188
 The Mellere is a perilous man he seide
 And if þat^t he out^t of his sclepe abreide
 He myghte don vs boþ a vylenye
 Aleyn answerd^t I counte hym not^t a flye 4192
 And vp he rist^t and by þe wenche he crepte
 This wenche lay vpriȝt^t and faste sclepte
 Til he so nygh^t was er she myȝte spie
 þat^t it^t had bene to late forto crie 4196
 And shortely for to seie þei were at^t oñ
 Nowe pleye Alayn for I wil speke of Iohn
 This Iohn lith stille a forlonge way or two
 And to hym self he makeþ wamenting^t *and* woo 4200
 Allas quod he þis is a wikke Iape [leaf 59]
 Now may I seie þat^t I is but^t an ape
 ȝit^t hap^t my felawe somewhat^t for his harme
 He hap^t þe mellers douȝter in his arme 4204

He Auntreþ hym and haþ his nedes spedde
 And I ly as a draf sak in my bedde
 And whan þis Iape is tolde anoþer day
 I shal be holde a daff a cokenay 4208
 I wil arise and aunter be my fath
 Vnhardy is vnsely þus men sath
 And vp he roos and softly he went
 Vnto þe Cradel and in his arme hit hent 4212
 And bare it soft vntil his beddes fete
 Sone aftere þe wif her rowting lete
 And gan to wake and went her out to pisse
 And come agein and gan her cradel mysse 4216
 And groped here and þere but she foond noon/
 Allas quod she I had almost mysgoñ
 I had almost go to þe clerkes bedde
 Ey benedicite þan had I foule yspedde 4220
 And forþ she goþ til she þe cradel fonde
 She gropeþ alway forþer wiþ her honde
 And fond þe bed and þouȝt nouȝt but of good
 By cause þat þe cradel by it stode 4224
 And nyste wher she was for it was derk
 But faire and wel she crepte in to þe clerk
 And lith ful stille and wolde haue kauȝt a slepe
 Wiþ-In a while þis Iohn þe clerk vp lepe 4228
 And on þis good[e] wif hee leip ful sore
 So mery a fitte ne had she not ful ȝore
 And prikeþ harde and depe as he ware¹ madde [1 ? MS]
 þis Ioly lif han þise two clerkes ladde 4232
 To þat þe iij. coke bygan to singe
 Aleyn wexe wery. in þe daw[e]nyng
 ffor he had swonken al þe longe nyȝt
 And seide fare wel malyn sweete wiȝt 4236
 The day is come I may no lenger byde [leaf 59, back]
 But euermo where so I go or ride
 I am þine owne clerk so haue I sele
 Now dere lemman quod she go fare wele 4240

But^r er þou goo. on þinge I wil þe telle
 Whhan þat^r þow wendest^r homward^r by þ^e melle
 Right^r at^r þe entre of þe door be-hinde
 Thow shalt^r a Cake of half a busshel fynde 4244
 That^r was ymaked of þine owne mele
 Which þat^r I helpe my Sire forto stele
 And good lemman god þe saue and kepe
 And wiþ þat^r word almost^r she gan to wepe 4248
 Aleyn vprist^r and þouȝt^r er þat^r it^r dawē
 I wol go crepen in by my felawe
 And fonde þe cradel wiþ his honde anoñ
 By god þought^r he alwrong / I haue mysgoñ 4252
 Myn hede is toty of my swynk to nyght
 þat^r makeþ me þat^r I go not^r aright^r
 I wote wele by þe cradel I haue mysgo
 Here lith þe meller^r and his wif also 4256
 And forþ he goþ on twenty delway
 Vnto þe bedde þer as þe meller^r lay
 He wende haue copen by his felawe Ioñ
 And by þe Meller^r in he crept^r anoñ 4260
 And kaught^r him by þe nek and soft he spake
 And seide þou Ioñ þou swyneshede awake
 Of Cristes saule and here a noble game
 ffor by þat^r lord^r þat^r called is seint^r Iame 4264
 As I haue þries in þis shorte nyȝt^r
 Swyved þe Mellers douȝter^r bolt^r vpriȝt^r
 Whilst^r þow hast^r as a Coward^r beñ agast^r
 Ye fals harlot^r quod þe Meller^e hast^r 4268
 A fals traitour. fals clerk quod he
 þow shalt^r be dede by goddes dignyte
 Who durste be so bolde to disparage
 My douȝter þat^r is come of swich lynage 4272
 And by þe þrote bolle he kauȝt^r aleyn
 [leaf 60]
 And he him hent^r dispitously ageyn
 And on þe nose he smote hym *with* his fist^r
 Doune ranne þe bloody streme vpon his brist^r 4276

And in þe floor wiþ nose and mouþ to-broke
 þei walowen as don two pigges in a poke
 And vp þei goon and doune anoñ
 Till þat þe Mellere spurned at a stoñ 4280
 And downe he felle bakward vpon his wiff
 þat wist no þinge of þis nyce striff
 ffor she was falle a slepe a litel wiȝt
 Wiþ Iohn þe clerk þat waked had al nyȝt 4284
 And wiþ þe falle out of her slepe she braide
 Help holy crosse of bromholm she saide
 In manus tuas lorde to þe I calle
 Awake Symond þe feend is on me falle 4288
 Myn hert is broken help I ne am but dede
 þere lith vpon my wombe *and* on myn hede
 Helpe Symkyn for þise fals clerkes fiȝt
 This Iohn stert vp as fast as euere he myȝt 4292
 And grasped by þe walles to and fro
 To fynden a staf and she stert vp also
 And knewe þe Eisters bet þan did Iohn
 And by þe walle she fonde a staf anōn 4296
 And segh a litel shymering of a liȝt
 ffor at an hole in shone þe mone briȝt
 And by þat liȝt she segh hem boþ[e] two
 But sikerly she nyste who was who 4300
 But as she seegh a white þinge in her eye
 And whan she gan þis white þing asprie
 She wende þe Clerk had wered a volipere
 And wiþ þe staf she drough ay ner and nere 4304
 And wende han hitte þis Aleyn atte fulle
 And smote þe Mylere on þe pyled skulle
 þat doun he goth *and* cried harowe I dye
 Thise Clerkes bette hym wel and lete hym lye 4308
 And Greieþ hem and toke her hors anoñ [leaf 60, back]
 And eke her/ mele and on her way þei gōn
 And at the Melle ȝit þei toke her Cake
 Of half a busshel floure ful wel ybake 4312

Thus is þe proude Mellere wel ybete
 And hath ylost' þe grynding' of þe whete
 And paide for þe soper euery deff
 Of aleyn and of Iohn þat' bette hym well 4316
 His wiff is swyued and his douȝtere als
 Lo such it' is a Miller' to be fals
 And þerfor þis prouerbe is seide ful soth
 Hym ther not' wene wele þat' euel doth 4320
 A Gilour shal hym self begiled be
 And god þat' sitteþ hegh in mageste
 Saue al þe company grete *and* smale
 Thus haue I quytte þe Meller' in my tale 4324
 ¶ Thus Endeth þe Reues Tale

[*No break in the MS.*]

And here bygynneþ þe Cokes tale

The Coke of london while þe Reue spak ¶ The Prologe
 ffor Ioye him þouȝt he clawed hym on þe bak

Ha. ha. quod he for cristes passion

This Millere haþ a sharpe conclusiō 4328

Vpon his argument of harbigage

Wel seide Salomon in his langage

Ne bringe not euery man into þine hous
 ffor herbowringe by nyght is perilous 4332

Wel ouȝt a man avised forto be

Whoom þat he brouȝt into his pryvete

I prey to god so ȝeue me sorowe and care

If euer siþen I hight hogge of ware 4336

Herd I Meller better ysette a werke

He had a Iape of malice in þe derke

And þerfor if ȝe vouche sauf to here 4340

But god forbede þat we stynt heere 4339

A tale of me þat am a poor man

I wil ȝou telle as wel as euer I can

A litel Iape þat felle in our Cite [leaf 61]

Our hooste answerd and seide I graunte it þe 4344

Now telle on Rogger and loke þat it be good

ffor mony a paast hast þou laten blood

And mony a Iak of Douer hast þou sold

þat haþ be twies hoote and twies cold 4348

Of mony a pilgryme hast þou cristes curs

ffor of þi Persely ȝit fare þei þe wors

þat þei han eten wiþ þi stobel goos

ffor in þi shoppe is mony a flee loos 4352

Now telle on gentil Rogger by þi name

But ȝit I prei þe be not wroþ for game

A man may say ful soþ in game and play

þow seist ful soþ quod Rogger be my fay 4356

But soþ play quade play as þe flemmyngⁱ saiþ
 And þerfore henry balyf by þi feiþ
 Be þow not wroþ er we departen here
 þoughe þat my tale be of an ostylere 4360
 But napelees I wil not tellen it 3it
 But er we part I-wis þou shalt be quyt
 And þerwiþ al [he] lough and made chere
 And saide his tale as 3e shal after here 4364
 þus endep þe prologe of þe cokes tale

[*No break in the MS.*]

And here bygynneþ þe Cokes tale

¶ The Cokes Tale.

A Prentis whilom dwelled in our' Cite
 And of a craft of vitalers was he
 Gailard^e he was as gold-fynch in þe shawe
 Broun as þe bery. a propre short felawe 4368
 Wip lockes blake ykempt^t ful fetisly
 Daunce he coupe so wel and Iolily
 þat^t he was cleped Perkyn reveilour'
 He was as ful of loue and paramour 4372
 As is þe hyve ful of hony swete
 Wel was þe wenche wip him myȝt^t mete
 And euery Bridale wold^t he sing^t and hoppe
 He loued bette þe Tauern þan þe shoppe 4376
 ffor whan þer eny ridyng was in chepe [leaf 61, back]
 Out^t of þe Shoppe þidere wold^t he lepe
 Til þat^t he had al þe siȝt^t yseyñ
 And daunsed wel wold he not^t come ageyñ 4380
 And gader' hym a mayne of his sort^t
 To hoppe and synge and make such disport^t
 And þer þei setten steuen forto mete
 To pleyñ at^t þe dis in such a strete 4384
 ffor in þe toune nas þer no prentys
 þat^t fairrer coupe cast^t a peire of dys
 þan perkyn coupe *and* þerto he was free
 Of his dispence in place of pryvete 4388
 That^t fonde his maister wel in his chaffare
 ffor oft^t tymes he fonde his boxe ful bare
 ffor sikerly a prentise Reveilour'
 þat^t haunteþ dis ryot^t and paramour 4392
 His maister' shulde in his shop abyē
 Al haue he not^t part^t of þe mynstralcie
 ffor þeft and riot^t þei ben conuertible
 Al conne he pley on giterñ or rubible 4396

Reuel and troupe as in a lough degre
 þei ben ful wroþ alday as men may see
 þis Ioly Prentis wiþ his maister bode
 Til he were nygh out of his prentisehode 4400
 Al were he snybbed erly or late
 And somtyme ladde wiþ revel to Newgate
 But atte last his maister hym byþouzte
 Vpon a day whan he his paper souzte 4404
 Of a prouerd þat seiþ þis same word
 Wel bette is roten appel out of horde
 þan þat it rote al þe remenaunte
 So fareþ it by a ryotous seruauunte 4408
 It is moche lasse harme to lat hym passe
 þan he sheed alle þe seruantes in þe place
 Therfor his maister 3aue hym a quytance
 And bad hym goo wiþ sorowe and meschaunce 4412
 And þus þis prentise had his leue . [leaf 62]
 Now lat him riot al þe nyzt or leue
 And for þer is no þeef wiþ-out a louke
 þat helpeþ hym to waasten or to souke 4416
 Of þat he bribe can or borowe may
 Anon he sent his bedde *and* his aray
 Vnto a conper of his owne sort
 þat loued dys [and] reuel and disport 4420
 And had a wif þat helde for countenance
 A Shop and swyued for her sustenance

[No break in the MS.]

APPENDIX TO GROUP A.

[THE SPURIOUS TALE OF GAMELYN.]

[*Spurious Link.*]

But here-of I wil pas as nowe
And of yonge Gamelyn I wil telle 3ou. 2

[*Tale.*]

Lipes *and* listneþ and harkneþ a-ri3t ¶ þe tale of yonge Gamelyne
And 3e shul here of a doughty kny3t
Sir Iohn of boundes was his name
He coude of Norture and of mochel game 4
Thre sones þe knyght had *and* wiþ his body he wan
The eldest was a moche schrewe and sone bygan
His breþer loued wel her fader *and* of him were agast
þe eldest deserued his faders curs *and* had it atte last 8
þe good knyght his fadere lyued so yore
þat dep was commen to hym . and handled hym ful sore
þe Good knyght cared sore . sik þer he lay
How his children shuld lyuen after his day 12
He had ben wide where . but non husbonde he was
Al þe londe þat he had it was purchas/
ffayn he wold it were dressed among hem alle
That eche of hem had his parte as it my3t falle 16
þoo sente he in to contrey after wise kny3tes
To helpen delen his londes : *and* dressen hem to ri3tes
He sent hem word by letters : þei shul hie blyve
Yf þei wolke speke wiþ hym : whilst he was a lyve 20

Whan þe knyȝtes harden sik þat he lay
 Had þei no rest neiþer : nyȝt ne day
 Til þei come to hym : þer he lay stille
 On his deþes bedde/ to abide goddys wille 24
 Than seide þe good knyght seke þer he lay [leaf 62, back]
 Lordes I ȝou warne for soþ wiþ-out nay
 I may no lenger lyuen here in þis stounde
 ffor þorgh goddis wille : deþ droueþ me to grounde 28
 þer nas noon of hem alle : þat herd hym ariȝt
 þat þei ne had routh : of þat ilke knyȝt
 And seide sir for goddes loue : dismay ȝou nouȝt
 God may doñ boote of bale : þat is now ywrouȝt 32
 þan speke þe good knyȝt : sik þer he lay
 Boote of bale god may sende : I wote it is no nay
 But I bisecche ȝo^u knyȝtes for þe loue of me
 Goþ and dresseþ my londes : among my sones þre 36
 And for þe loue of god deleþ not amys
 And forgeteþ not Gamelyne : my ȝong sonne þat is/
 Takeþ hede to þat oon as wel as to þat opere
 Seelde ȝe seen eny hier . helpen his broþere 40
 þoo lete þei þe knyght lyen : þat was not in hele
 And wenten into counseil his londes forto dele
 Forto delen hem alle to oñ : þat was her þouȝt
 And for Gamelyn was ȝongest he shuld haue nouȝt 44
 All þe londe þat þer was : þei dalten it in two
 And lete Gamelyne þe ȝonge : without londe goo
 And eche of hem seide to other ful loude
 His breþeren myȝt ȝeue him londe whan he good cowde 48
 And whan þei had deled þe londe at her wille
 þei comen to þe knyght . þer he lay stille
 And tolde him anon : how þei had wrouȝt
 And þe knyght þere he laye liked it riȝt nouȝt 52
 ¶ Than seide þe knyȝt : be seint Martyne
 For al þat ȝe han done : ȝit is the londe myne
 ffor goddis loue neighbours . stondeþ alle stille
 And I wil delen my londe : after myn owne wille 56

Iohn myne eldest sone: shal haue plowes fyve
 þat was my faders heritage: whan he was alyve
 And my myddelest sone .v. plowes of londe
 þat I halpe forto gete *with* my riȝt honde 60
 And al myn opere purchace of londes *and* ledes [leaf 63]
 þat I biquepe Gamelyn. and al my good stedes
 And I biseche ȝou good men þat lawe conne of londe
 For Gamelynes loue: þat my quest stonde 64
 Thus dalt þe knyȝt. his londe by his day
 Riȝt on his dep bed sik þer he lay
 And sone afterward he lay stoon stille
 And deide whan tyme come: as it was cristes wille 68
 Anoon as he was dede and vnder gras graue
 Sone þe elder broþer: giled þe ȝonge knaue
 He toke into his honde his londe *and* his lede
 And Gamelyne him seluen to cloþe *and* to fede 72
 He cloþed him and fedde him/ eueþt *and* eke wrothe
 And lete his londes forfare: and his houses boþe
 His Parkes and his wodes: and did no þing welle
 And siþen he it abouȝt on his owne felle 76
 So longe was Gamelyne in his broþers halle
 ffor þe strengest of good wiþt þei douted hym alle
 þer was noon þer-Inne neiþer ȝonge ne olde
 þat wold wrethe Gamelyn. were he neuer so bolde 80
 Gamelyne stood on a day: in his broþeres ȝerde
 And byganne wiþ his hond/ to handel his berde
 He þouȝt on his landes þat lay vnsowe
 And his fare okes þat doune were ydrawe 84
 His Parkes were broken/ and his deer reued
 Of alle his good stedes/ noon was hym byleued
 His hous were vnhilld/ *and* ful eueþt diȝt
 Tho þouȝt Gamelyne/ it went not ariȝt 88
 ¶ Afterward come his broþer walking þare
 And seide to Gamelyn. is our mete ȝare
 Tho wrathed him Gamelyn/ *and* swore by goddys boke
 þow shalt go bake þi self/ I wil not be þi coke 92

What broþer Gamelyne howe answerst þou nowe
 þou spekest neuere such a word as þou dost nowe
 By feiþe seide Gamelyn: now me þenkeþ nede
 Of al þe harmes þat I haue: I toke neuere ȝit hede. 96
 My parkes bene broken: *and* my dere reued [leaf 63, back]
 Of myn armes ne my stedes: nouȝt is byleued
 Aȝt þat my fader me byquaþe: al goþ to shame
 And þerfor haue þou goddes curs: broþere be þi name 100
 þan spake his broþer þat rape was and rees
 Stond stille Gadlynge and holde þi pees
 Thou shalt be fayn to haue: þi mete *and* þi wede
 What spekest þow gadeling: of londe or of lede 104
 Than seide Gamelyn: þe child so ȝing
 Cristes curs mote he haue: þat me clepeth Gadelinge
 I am no wors Gadeling: ne no wors wiȝt
 But born of a lady and gete of a knyȝt 108
 Ne dorst he not to Gamelyn neuere a foot goo
 But cleped to hym his men: and seide to hem þoo/
 Goþ and beten þis boye and reueþ hym his witte
 And lat him lerne anoper tyme: to answer me bette 112
 Than seide þe Child ȝonge Gamelyn
 Cristes curs mote þou haue: broþer art þou myn
 And if I shal algates be beten anōn
 Cristes curs mote þou haue: but þou be þat on 116
 And anon his broþer in þat grete hete
 Made his men to fette staues Gamelyn to bete
 Whan euery of hem had a staf ynommen
 Gamelyn was werre. whan he segħ hem commen 120
 Whan Gamelyne segħ hem commen. he loket ouer aȝt
 And was ware of a pestel: stode vnder þe waȝt
 Gamelyn was liȝt and þider gan he lepe
 And droof alle his broþeres men riȝt sone on an hepe 124
 And loket as a wilde lyon. and leide on good wone
 And whan his broþer segħ þat: he byganne to goñ
 He fley vp into a loft: and shette þe door fast
 þus Gamelyn wiþ his pestel. made hem al a-gast 128

Some for Gamelyns loue. *and* some for eye
 Alle þei droughen hem to halues whan he gan to pleye
 ¶ What^t nowe seide Gamelynⁿ : euel mote ȝe the
 Wil ȝe bygynne contecte : and so sone flee 132
 Gamelynⁿ souȝt^t his broþer : whider^t he was flowe [leaf 64]
 And seghe where he loked out^t a wyndowe
 Broþere seide Gamelynⁿ. come a litel nere
 And I wil teche þe a play at þe bokelere 136
 His broþere him ansuerde. *and* seide by seint^t Richere
 þe while þat^t pestel is in þine honde. I wil come no nere
 Broþer I wil make þi pees : I swer by *cristes* oore
 Cast^t away þe pestel. and wreþe þe no more 140
 I most^t nede seide Gamelyn wreþ me at^t onys
 ffor þou wold make þi men. to breke my bonys
 Ne had I hadde maynⁿ *and* myȝt^t in myn armes
 To han hem fro me. þei wold haue doñ me harmes 144
 Gamelyn seide his broþer be þou not^t wrothⁿ
 Forto sene þe han harme. me were riȝt^t lothⁿ
 I ne did it^t not^t broþer but^t for a fondinge
 ffor to loken wher þou art^t stronge and art^t so ȝenge 148
 Come a doune þan to me and graunt^t me my bone
 Of oon þing^t I wil þe axe and we shal sauȝt^t sone
 Doune þan come his broþer þat^t fikel was *and* felle
 And was swiþ sore a-feerd of þe pestelle 152
 He seide broþer Gamelyn axe me þi bone
 And loke þou me blame but^t I it^t graunte sone
 þan seide Gamelyn broþer I-wys
 And we shul be at^t oñ. þou most graunte me this 156
 Aft^t þat^t my fader me by-quap. whilst^t he was alyue
 þow most^t do me it^t haue. if we shul not^t strive
 þat^t shalt^t þou haue Gamelyn I swere bi *cristes* oore.
 Al þat^t þi fadere þe by-quape. þough þou wold^t haue more
 Thy londe þat^t lith ley. wel it^t shal be sawe 161
 And þine houses reised vp þat^t bene leide ful lawe
 Thus seide þe knyght. to gamelyn wiþ mouþe
 And þouȝt on falsnes as he wel coupe 164

þe knyȝt þouȝt on tresoñ. and gamelyn anoñ
 And wente *and* kissed his broþer *and* whan þei were at oñ
 Alas yonge Gamelyn no þing he ne wist
 Wiþ such fals tresoñ. his broþer him kist 168
 Lypeneth and listeneþ and holdeþ *ȝour* tonge [leaf 64, back]
 And ȝe shul here talking of Gamelyn þe ȝonge
 ¶ Ther was þere bisiden cride a wrastelinge
 And þerfore þer was sette a ramme *and* a ringe 172
 And Gamelyn was in wille to wende þerto/
 fforto preuen his myȝt what he coude doo
 Broþere seide Gamelyn by seint Richere
 þow most lene me to nyȝt a litel coursere 176
 That is fresshe fro þe spore on for to ride
 I most on an erand a litel here beside
 By god seide his broþer/ of stedes in my stalle
 Goo and chese þe the best spare noñ of hem alle 180
 Of stedes and of coursers þat stoden hem byside
 And telle me good broþer whider þou wilt ride
 Here beside broþer is cried a wrastelinge
 And þerfore shal be sette a ram *and* a ringe 184
 Moche worchip it were broþere to vs alle
 Might I þe ram *and* þe ring bring home to þis halle
 A stede ther was sadeled smertly an skete
 Gamelyn did a peire spores fast on his fete 188
 He sette his foote in þe stirop þe stede he bistrode
 And towardes þe wrasteling þe yong childe rode
 ¶ Whan Gamelyn þe ȝonge was riden out atte gate
 þe fals knyȝt his broþer loket it after þate 192
 And bysouȝt Ihesu crist þat is heuene kinge
 He myght breke his necke in þe wrestelinge
 As sone as Gamelyn come þer þe place was
 He light doune of his stede *and* stood on þe gras 196
 And þer he herde a frankeleyn weiloway singe
 And by-gonne bitterly his hondes for to wringe
 Good man seide Gamelyn: whi mast þou þis fare
 Is þer no man þat may. ȝou helpen out of care 200

Allas seide þis frankelēyn þat euere was I bore
 ffor twey stalworþ sones: I wene þat I haue lore
 A champion is in þe place. þat haþ wrouȝt me sorowe
 ffor he haþ sclayn my two sones. but ȝif god hem borowe
 I wil ȝeue x. li. by Ihesu crist *and* more [leaf 65]
 Wip þe nones I fonde a man wold handel hym sore
 Good man seide Gamelyn wilt þou wele doñ
 Holde my hors þe whiles my man: drowe of my shoñ 208
 And helpe my man to kepe/ my cloþes *and* my stede
 And I wil to place goñ. to loke if I may spede
 By god seide þe ffrankeleyn it shal be doñ
 I wil my self be þi man to drowe of þi shoñ 212
 And wende þou into place Ihesu crist þe spede
 And drede not of þi cloþes. ne of þi good stede
 Bare-foot and vngirt. Gamelyn Inne came
 Alle þat were in þe place. hede of him name 216
 Howe he durst auenture him to doñ his myȝt
 þat was so doghty a champiōn in wrasteling *and* in fiȝt
 Vp stert þe Champion rapely anōn
 And toward yong Gamelyn byganne to gōn 220
 And seide who is þi fadere *and* who is þi sire
 ffor sothe þou art a grete fool þat thou come hire
 Gamelyn answerd þe Champion þo
 Thowe knewe wel my fadere while he myȝt goo 224
 þe whiles he was alyue by seynt Martyn
 Sir Iohñ of Boundes was his name *and* I am Gamelyn
 ¶ ffelawe seide þe Champiōn so mote I þrive
 I knewe wel þi fadere þe whiles he was alyue 228
 And þi silf Gamelyn I wil þat þou it here
 While þou were a ȝong boy. a moçh shrewe þou were
 Than seide Gamelyn and swore by cristes ore
 Now I am older wexe þou shalt finde me a more 232
 By god seide þe Champion welcome mote þou be
 Come þow onys in my honde. þou shalt neuere the
 It was wel wip-in þe nyȝt *and* þe mone shone
 Whan Gamelyn and þe Champion to-gider gon gone 236

The Champion cast^t turnes to Gamelynⁿ þat was prest
 And Gamelyn stode and bad hym done his best
 Than seide Gamelyn to þe Champioun
 þowe art^t fast^t aboute to bringe me adoun 240
 Now I haue proued mony turnes of þine [leaf 65, back]
 Thow most^t he seide oon or ij. of myne
 Gamelyn to þe Championⁿ ȝede smertely anōn
 Of alle þe turnes þat^t he couþe he shewed hym but oñ
 And cast^t him on þe lift^t side. þat þre ribbes to-brake 245
 And þerto his owne arme þat^t ȝaf a grete crake
 Than seide Gamelyn smertly anōn
 Shal it^t bihold^t for a cast^t or ellis for nōn 248
 By god seide þe Champion whedere it^t bee
 He þat^t commep^t ones in þi honde shal he neuere the
 ¶ Than seide þe frankeley þat had þe sones þere
 Blessed be þou Gamelyn þat^t euere þou bore were 252
 The ffrankleyn seide to þe Champion on hym stode hym
 This is ȝonge Gamelynⁿ þat^t tauȝt/ þe þis pleye [noñ eye
 Aȝein answerd^t þe Champion. þat^t likeþ no þing^t wel
 He is alþer maister and his pley is riȝt^t feþ 256
 Siþen y wrasteled first^t it^t is goon ȝore
 But^t I was neuer^t in my lif handeled so sore
 Gamelyn stode in þe place anon wiþ-out^t serk^t
 And seide ȝif þer be moo lat^t hem come to werk^t 260
 The Champion þat^t pyned hym to worch sore
 It^t semeþ by his countenaunce þat^t he wil no more
 Gamelyin in þe place stood stille as stone
 ffor to abide wrastelinge but^t þer come nonē 264
 þer was noon wiþ gamelyn þat wold wrastel more
 ffor he handeled the Champion so wonderly sore
 Two gentile men þat ȝemed þe place
 Come to Gamelyin god ȝeue hym good grace 268
 And seide to hym do on · þi hosen and þi shoone
 ffor soþ at^t þis tyme þis fare is done
 And þan seide Gamelyn so mot^t I wel fare
 I haue not^t ȝete haluendele sold my ware 272

APPENDIX TO GROUP A. GAMELYN. Petworth MS.

þoo seide þe Champion: so broke I my swere
 He is a fool þat þerof bieþ þou selleþ it so dere
 Tho saide þe ffrankeleyn þat was in moch care
 ffelawe he saide whi lackest þou þis ware 276
 By sante Iame of Gales þat mony man hap souzt [leaf 66]
 3it is it to good chepe þat þow hast bouzt
 Thoo þat wardeynes were of þat wrasteling
 Come and brouzt Gamelyn þe Ramme and þe rynge 280
 [.
 no gap in the MS.]
 And Gamelyn biþouzt him it was a faire þinge
 And went wiþ moche Ioye home in þe mornynge 284
 ¶ His broþer see wher he came: wiþ þe grete route
 And bad shitt þe gate and hold hym wiþ oute
 The Porter of his lord was soor a gaast
 And stert anon to þe gate and lokked it fast 288
 ¶ Now lithenes and listneþ boþ 3onge and olde
 And 3e shul here gamen of Gamelyn þe bolde
 Gamelyn come to þe gate for to haue come Inne
 And it was shett fast wiþ a strong pynne 292
 þan seide Gamelyn Porter vndo þe 3ate
 ffor good mennys sonen stonden þer-ate
 þan answerd þe porter and swore by goddys berde
 þow ne shalt Gamelyn come into þis 3erde 296
 Thow lixt seide Gamelyn/ so broke I my chyne
 He smote þe wikett wiþ his foote and breke awaie þe pynne
 The Porter seie þoo/ it myzt no better be
 He sette foote on erth and bygan to flee 300
 By my feye seide Gamelyn þat travaile is ylore
 ffor I am of fote as light as þou. if þou haddest it swore
 Gamelyn ouertoke þe porter. and his tene wrake
 And girt him in þe nek þat þe boon to-brake 304
 And toke hym by þat oon arme/ and threwe hym in a welle
 vij^c. fadme it was depe/ as I haue herd telle
 ¶ Whan Gamelyn þe yonge þus had plaied his playe
 Alle þat in þe yerde were. drowen hem awaye 308

þei dredden him ful sore for werk þat he wrouȝt
 And for þe faire company þat he þider brouȝt
 Gamelyn ȝede to þe gate/ and lete it vp wide
 He lete Inne aȝ. þat goñ wold or ride 312
 And seide ȝe be welcome wiþ out eny greue
 ffor we wil be maisters here and axe no man leue
 ȝusterday I left/ seide ȝonge Gamelyn [leaf 66, back]
 In my broþers seler/ v. tonne of wyñ 316
 I wil not þis company partyn a-twynne
 And ȝe wil done after me/ while soþe is þer-Inne
 And if my broþer gruche or make foule chere
 Eiper for spence of mete and drink/ þat we spende here
 I am oure Catour and bere our alþer purs 321
 He shal haue for his grucching seint Maries curs
 My broþer is a Nigon: I swere be cristes oore
 And we wil spende largely/ þat he haþ spared yore 324
 And who þat make grucching þat we here dwelle
 He shal to þe porter in to þe drowe-welle
 .Vij. dayes and vij. nyȝtes Gamelyn helde his feest
 Wiþ moche solace/ was þer noon cheest 328
 In a litel torret his broþer lay steke
 And see hem waast his good and dorst no word speke
 Erly on a mornynge on þe viij. day
 The Gestes come to Gamelyn and wolde goñ her way 332
 Lordes seide Gamelyn wil ȝe so hie
 Al þe wyne is not ȝit dronke so brouke I myñ ye
 Gamelyn in his hert/ was ful woo
 Whan his gestes toke her leue. fro hym forto go 336
 He wolde þei had dwelled lenger. *and* þei seide nay
 But bytaught Gamelyn. god and good day
 Thus made Gamelyn his feest. *and* brouȝt wel to ende
 And aftere his gestes. toke leue to wende 340
 ¶ Lythen and listen and holde ȝour tunge
 And ȝe shal here Game of Gamelyn þe ȝonge
 Harkeneth lordingges and listenþ ariȝt
 Whan alle gestis were goon how gamelyn was diȝt 344

Alle þe while þat Gamelyn heeld his Mangerye
 His broþere þouȝt on hym be wroke/ with his trecherye
 Whan Gamylyns gastes were riden and goñ
 Gamelyn stood anon allone/ frend had he noñ 348
 Tho aftere felle sone/ with-in a litel stounde
 Gamelyn was taken/ and ful hard ybounde
 fforþ Come þe fals knynght: out of þe Solere [leaf 67]
 To Gamelyn his broþer/ he ȝede ful nere 352
 And saide to Gamelyn/ who made þe so bold
 For to stroien þe stoor of myn household
 Broþer seide Gamelyn wreþ þe riȝt nought
 ffor it is many day gon siþ it was bouȝt 356
 ffor broþer þou hast had by seint Richere
 Of xv. plowes of londe. þis xvj. ȝere
 And of alle þe beestes þou hast forþ bredde
 That my fader me byquath on his deþes bedde 360
 Of al þis xvj. ȝere I ȝeue þe þe prowē
 ffor þe mete and þe drink þat we han spendeð nowē
 Than seide þe fals knyȝt. euel mote he þee
 Herken broþere Gamelyn what I wil ȝeue þe 364
 ffor of my body broþer: here geten haue I none
 I wil make þe myn heire I sware by seint Iohn
 Parfay seide Gamelyn: and if it so be
 And þou thenk as þou seist: god ȝeeld it þe 368
 No þinge wist Gamelyn of his broþer gile
 Therfore he hym bygiled in a litel while
 Gamelyn seide. oon þing I þe telle
 þoo þou þrewe my porter in þe drowe-welle 372
 I swore in þat wreþe and in þat grete moote
 þat þou shuldest be bounde boþe honde and fote
 [.
 no gap in the MS.] 376
 This most be fulfilled: my men to dote
 ffor to holden myn avowe as I þe bihote
 ¶ Broþer seide Gamelyn as mote I þee
 þou shalt not be forswore for þe loue of me 380

Tho maden þei Gamelyn to sitte and not stonde
 To þei had hym bounde boþ fote and honde
 þe fals knyght his broþer. of Gamelyn was a-gast
 And sent efter fetters to fetter hym fast 384
 His broþer made lesingges on him þer he stode
 And tolde hem þat comen Inne þat Gamelyn was wode
 Gamelyn stode to a post. bounden in þe haþt
 þoo þat comen Inne. loked on hym aþt 388
 Euer stode Gamelyn euen vp-riþt [leaf 67, back]
 But mete and drink had ne noun. neiþer day ne nyþt
 Than seide Gamelyn/ brother be myn hals
 Nowe haue I aspied þou art a party fals 392
 Had I wist þe Treson þat hast yfounde
 I wold haue 3eue strokes or I had be bounde
 Gamelyn stode bounde stille as eny stone
 Tho daies and two nyþtes mete had he none 396
 Than seide Gamelyn: þat stood ybound stronge
 Adam Spencer me þenkeþ I fast to longe
 Adam Spencere now I biseche þe
 ffor þe moche loue my fadere loued þe 400
 If þou may come to þe keys/ lese me out of bonde
 And I wil part wip þe of my free londe
 Than seide Adam þat was þe spencere
 I haue serued þi broþer þis xvj 3ere 404
 3if I lete þe gone out of his boure
 He wold saye afterwardes I were a tratour
 Adam seide Gamelyn so brouke I myn hals
 Thow shalt finde þi broþer at þe last fals 408
 Therefore broþer Adam lose me out of boñdes
 And I will parte wip þe of my free londes
 Vp such forward seide Adam ywis
 I wil do þerto al þat in me is 412
 Adam seide Gamelyn as mote I þe
 I wil holde þe Conaunte and þou wil me [fre]
 Anoon as Adams lord to bed was goñ
 Adam toke þe kayes and lete Gamelyn out anoñ 416

He vnlocked Gamelyn boþ hondes *and* fete
 In hope of auancement þat he hym byhete
 Than seide Gamelyn þonked be goddis sonde
 Nowe I am lose boþ fote and honde 420
 Had I nowe eten and dronken ariȝt
 þer is noon in þis hous shuld bynde me þis nyȝt
 Adam toke Gamelyn as stille as eny stone
 And ladde him into þe spence raply anone 424
 And sette him to sopere riȝt in a priuey styde [leaf 68]
 He bad hym do gladly and so he dide
 Anoon as Gamelyn had eten wel *and* fyne
 And þerto y-dronken wel of þe rede wyne 428
 Adam seide Gamelyn what is nowe þi rede
 Or I go to my broþer and Gerd of his his hede
 Gamelyn seide Adam it shal not be so
 I can teche þe a rede þat is worþ þe twoo/ 432
 I wote wel forsoþ þat þis is no nay/
 We shul haue a Mangerye riȝt on sonday
 Abbotes and Priours mony here shul be
 And oþer men of holy chirch as I telle þe 436
 þou shal stonde vp by þe post as þou were bounde fast
 And I shal leue hem vnloke þat away þou may hem cast
 Whan þat þei han eten and wasshen her handes
 þow shalt biseche hem alle to bringe þe out of bondes 440
 And if þei willen borowe þe þat were good game
 þan were þou out of prison and [I] out of blame
 And if ecche of hem saye to vs nay
 I shal do anoper I swere by þis day 444
 þow shalt haue a good staf *and* I wil haue anopere
 And cristes curs haf þat on þat failleþ þat opere
 3e for god seide Gamelyn I say it for me
 If I faille on my side evel mot I þee 448
 If we shul algate assoille hem of her synne
 Warne me brother/ Adam whan we shul bygynne
 Gamelyn seid Adam by seint charite
 I wil warne þe biforn whan it shal be 452

Whan I winke on þe. loke forto gone
 And caste away þi fetters and come to me anon
 Adam seide Gamelyn blessed be þi bonys
 þat is a good counseile ȝeuen for þe nonys 456
 ȝif þei warne me þe to bring out of bondes
 I wil sette good strokes riȝt on here lendes
 Whan þe Sonday was comen and folk to þe feest
 ffaire þei were welcomed. boþ leest and mest 460
 And euer as þei at þe haldore come Inne [leaf 68, back]
 They casten her yen/ on ȝonge Gamelyn
 The fals knyȝt his broþer ful of trecherye
 Al þe gettes þat þer were at þe mangerye 464
 Of Gamelyn his broþer he tolde hem wiþ mouþe
 Al þe harme and þe shame þat he telle couþe
 Whan þei were yserued of messes ij. or thre
 þan seide Gamelyn howe serue ȝe me 468
 It is not wel serued by god þat aȝt made
 þat I sitte fastinge and oþer men make glade
 The fals knyȝt his broþer þer as he stode
 Told to aȝt þe gestes þat Gamelyn was wode 472
 And Gamelyn stode stille and answerd nouȝt
 But Adames wordes he helde in his þouȝt
 Thoo Gamelyn gan speke doolfully wiþ-aȝt
 To þe grete lordes þat seten in þe haȝt 476
 ¶ Lordes he seide for cristes passion
 Helpe to bringe Gamelyn out of prison
 þan seide an Abbot sorowe on his cheke
 He shal haue cristes curs and seint Maries eke 480
 That þe out of prison beggeþ or borowe
 And euer worþ him wel þat doþ þe moche sorowe
 After þat Abbot þan speke anopere
 I wold þine hede were of þough þou were my broþere 484
 Aȝt þat þe borowe foule mot hem falle
 Thus þei seiden alle þat were in þe halle
 ¶ Than seide a Priour/ euel mote he preue
 It is grete sorowe and care boy þat þou art alyue 488

Ow seide Gamelyn so brouke I my bone
 Now haue I spied þat frendes haue I noñ
 Cursed mote he worþ. boþ flessħ and blood
 þat euer doþ Priour or Abbot eny good 492
 Adam þe Spencere toke vp þe cloth
 And loked on Gamelyn and segh þat he was wroþe
 Adam on the Pantry litel he þouzt
 And two good staues to þe halle door he brouzt 496
 Adam loked on Gamelyn and he was warre anoñ [leaf 69]
 And cast away þe fetters *and* bygan to goñ
 Whan he come to Adam he toke þat on staf
 And bygan to worch and good strokes 3af 500
 Gamelyn come into þe halle and þe Spencer' boþe
 And loked hem aboute as þei hadden be wroþe
 Gamelyn spreynep holy watere wip an oken spire
 That some þat stode vprizt felle in þe fire 504
 þer was no lewe man þat in þe halle stode
 þat wolde do Gamelyn eny þing but good
 But stoden bisides and lete hem boþ wirch
 ffor þei had no rewþe of men of holy chirch 508
 Abbot or Priour monk or chanoun
 That Gamelyn ouertoke. anoñ þei 3eden down
 Ther was noon of alle þat with his staf mette
 þat he ne made hem ouerþrowe to quyte hem his dette
 Gamelyn seide Adam for seint charite 513
 Pay good lyuere for þe loue of me
 And I wil kepe þe door so euere here I masse
 Er þei bene assoilled þer shal non passe 516
 Doute þe not seide Gamelyn whil we ben in fere
 Kepe þowe wel þe door and I wil wirche here
 Bystere þe good adam and lete non fle
 And we shul telle largely how mony þat þer be 520
 Gamelyn seide Adam do hem but goode
 þei bene men of holy church drowe of hem no blode
 Saue wel þe crownes. and do hem no harmes
 But breke boþ her logges/ and sipen her armes 524

Thus Gamelyn and Adam wrouȝt^t ryȝt^t fast^t
 And pleide wiȝ þe monkes and made hem agast^t
 þidere þei come ridinge Ioly wiȝ swaynes
 And home aȝein þei were ladde in cartes *and* waynes 528
 Tho þei hadden al ydo. þan seide a grey frere
 Allas Sir^r abbot^t what^t did we nowe here
 Whan þat^t we commen hidere it^t was a cold^t rede
 Vs had be bet^t haue be at^t home. *with* water *and* brede 532
 While Gamelyn made orders of monke *and* frere [leaf 69, back]
 Euere stood his broȝer and made foule chere
 Gamelyn vp wiȝ his staf þat^t he wel knewe
 And girt^t hym in þe nek þat^t he ouer thrwe 536
 A litel aboue þe Girdel þe Rigge-boon he brast
 And sette him in þe fetters þer he sat^t arst^t
 Sitte þer broȝer seide Gamelyn
 fforto colen þi body/ as I did myñ 540
 As swith as þei had wroken hem on her fooñ
 þei asked water and wasshen anoñ
 What^t some for her loue and some for her Awe
 Aȝ þe seruantes serued hem on þe best^t lawe 544
 þe Sherreue was þennes but .v. myle
 And aȝ was tolde him in a lytel while
 Howe Gamelyn and Adam had ydo a sorye rees
 Bounden and wounded men aȝeinste þe kingges pees/ 548
 Tho bygan sone strif^t for to wake
 And þe shereff about^t Gamelyn forto take
 ¶ Now liȝen and listen so god ȝeue ȝou good fyne
 And ye shul here good game of yonge Gamelyne 552
 xxiiij^{ti} ȝonge men þat^t helde hem ful bold^t
 Come to þe shiref and seide þat^t þei wold^t
 Gamelyn and Adam fette by her fay
 The Sheref ȝaue hem leue soȝ for to say 556
 Thei hiden fast^t wold þei not^t lynne
 To þei come to þe gate þere Gamelyn was Inne
 Thei knocked on þe gate þe porter was nyȝe
 And loked out^t att^t an hool as man þat^t was scleȝe 560

þe Porter had bihold hem a litel while
 He loued wel Gamelyn and was dradde of gyle
 And lete þe wikett stonde ful stille
 And asked hem wiþ out what was her wille 564
 ffor all þe grete company/ speke but oon
 Vndo þe gate porter and lat vs in goñ
 þan seide þe Porter so brouke I my chyn
 3e shul saie 3oure erand er 3e come Inne 568
 Sey to Gamelyn and Adam/ if þeire wil be [leaf 70]
 We wil speke wiþ hem two wordes or þre
 ffelawe seide þe Porter stonde þer stille
 And I wil wende to Gamelyn to wete his wille 572
 Inne went þe porter to Gamelyn anōñ
 And saide sir I warne 3ou here ben commen 3our' fooñ
 The Shireues men bene at þe gate
 fforto take 3ou boþ 3e shul not scape 576
 Porter seide Gamelyn so mote I þe
 I wil alowe þi wordes whan I my tyme se
 Go ageyn to þe gate and dwelle wiþ hem a while
 And þou shalt se riȝt sone porter a gile 580
 Adam seide gamelyn hast þe to goñ
 We han foo-men mony and frendes neuere oñ
 It bene þe shireues men þat hider bene commen
 þei ben swore to-gidere þat we shal be nomen 584
 Gamelyn seide Adam hye þe riȝt blyve
 And if I faile þe þis day euel mot I þrive
 And we shul so welcome þe shyreues men
 þat some of hem shal make her beddes in þe fenne 588
 At a postern gate Gamelyn out went
 And a good Cartstaf in his hondes hent
 Adam hent sone anoþer grete staff
 ffor to helpen Gamelyne and good strokes 3af 592
 Adam felled tweyn and Gamelyn þre
 þe oþer sette fete on erþe and bygan to flee
 What seide Adam so euere here I masse
 I haue riȝt good wyne drynk er 3e passe 596

Nay by god seide þei þi drink is not^t goode
 It wolde make a mannys brayn to lyen on his hode
 Gamelyn stode stille and loked hym aboute
 And seide þe Shyref commep wip a grete route 600
 Adam seide Gamelyn what^t bene nowe þi redes
 Here commep þe sheref and wil haue *our* hedes
 Adam seide to Gamelyn my rede is now þis
 Abide we no lenger lest we fare amys 604
 I rede we to wode goñ/ er we be founde [leaf 70, back]
 Better is þer louse þan in þe toune bounde
 Adam toke by þe honde yonge Gamelyn
 And euery of hem dronke a drauȝt^t of wyñ 608
 And after token he cours and wenten her way
 T[h]o fonde þe Shyrreue nyst^t but^t non aye
 ¶ The Shirreue liȝt/ doune and went^t into halle
 And fonde þe lord fetred fast^t wip alle 612
 The Schirreue vnfetred hym riȝt^t sone anoñ
 And sent^t aftere a leche to hele his rigge-boñ
 Lat^t we nowe þe fals knyȝt^t lye in his care
 And talke we of Gamelyn. and of his fare 616
 Gamelyn into þe wode stalked stille
 And Adam Spensere liked riȝt^t ille
 Adam swore to Gamelyn by seint^t Richere
 Nowe I see it^t is mery to be a spencere 620
 ȝit^t leuer me were kayes to bere
 þan walken in þis wilde wode my cloþes to tere
 Adam seide Gamelyn dismay þe riȝt^t nouȝt^t
 Mony good mannys child^t in care is brouȝt^t 624
 As þei stode talkinge boþen in fere
 Adam herd^t talking^t of men. *and* riȝt^t nygh^t hem þei were
 Tho Gamelyn vnder wode loked ariȝt^t
 vij^{xx}. of ȝonge men he seye wel ydiȝt^t 628
 Alle satte at^t þe mete compas about^t
 Adam seide Gamelyn now haue I no dout^t
 Aftere bale commep bote þorgh^t goddis myȝt^t
 Me þink^t of mete and drynk^t I haue a siȝt^t 632

Adam loked þoo vnder wode bough
 And whan he segþ mete was glad ynogh
 ffor he hoped to god to haue his dele
 And he was sore alonged after a mele 636
 As he seide þat worde þe mayster outlawe
 Saugh Adam and gamelyn vnder þe wode shawe
 3onge men seide þe maistere by þe good rode
 I am ware of gestes. god sende vs goode 640
 3one ben twoo 3onge men wel ydight
 [leaf 71]
 And paraventure þer ben mo who so loked riȝt
 A-riseþ vp 3onge men and fette hem to me
 It is good þat we weten what men þei be 644
 Vp þer sterten .vij. from þe dynere
 And metten wiþ Gamelyn and Adam Spencer
 Whan þei were nyghe hem þan seide þat oon
 3eeldeþ vp 3onge men 3our bowes and 3our' floon 648
 þan seide Gamelyn þat 3ong' was/ of// elde
 Moche sorowe mote þei haue þat to 3ou hem 3elde
 I Curs noon opere but right my silue
 þoo 3e fette to 3ou .v. þan be 3e twelue 652
 Whan þei hard by his word þat myȝt was in his arme
 Ther was noon of hem þat wold do hym harme
 But seide to Gamelyn myldely *and* stille
 Comeþ a-fore our Maister and seiþ to hym 3our wille 656
 3onge men seide Gamelyn be 3our lewte
 What man is 3our' maister þat 3e wiþ be
 Alle þei answerd wiþ out lesing
 Our maister is crowned of outlawe king 660
 Adam seide Gamelyn go we in cristes name
 He may neiþer mete ne drink warne vs for shame
 If þat he be hende and come of gentil blood
 He wil 3eue vs mete and drink and do us som gode 664
 By seint Iame seide Adam what harme þat I gete
 I wil auenture me þat I had mete
 Gamelyn and Adam went forth in fere
 And þei grette þe Maister þat þei fond þere 668

Than seide þe Maister king^t of outlawes
 What^t seche ȝe ȝonge men vnder þe wode shawes
 Gamelyn answerd^t þe king^t *with* his croun
 He most^t nedes walk^t in feeld^t þat^t may not^t in town 672
 Sire we walk not^t here no harme to doo
 But^t ȝif we mete a dere to shete þerto
 As men þat^t bene hungry *and* mow no mete fynde
 And beñ hard^t bystad^t vnder wode lynde 676
 Of Gamelyns wordes / þ^e maister had reuþe [leaf 71, back]
 And seide ȝe shul haue ynow haue god my treuth
 He bad hem sitte down forto take rest^t
 And bad hem ete and drink^t and þat of þe best^t 680
 As þei eten and dronken wel and fyne
 þan seide on to anoþer. þis is Gamelyn
 þo was þe Maistere outlawe into counseile nome
 And tolde howe it^t was Gamelyn þat þider was come 684
 Anon as he herd^t how it^t was byfalle
 He made him maister^t vnder hym ouer hem alle
*With*Inne þe iij. weke hym come tydinge
 To þe Maistere outlawe þat^t was her kinge 688
 þat^t he shuld come home his pees was made
 And of þat^t good tydinge he was ful glade
 þoo seide he to his ȝonge men soþ forto telle
 Me bene comen tydinges : I may no lenger dwelle 692
 Tho was Gamelyn anoon wiþ out^t taryinge
 Made maister^t outlawe and crowned her kinge
 Whan Gamelyn was crowned king^t of outlawes
 And walked had a while vnder þe wode shawes/ 696
 þe fals knyȝt^t bis broþer was sherif *and* sire
 And lete his broþere endite for hate *and* for ire
 þoo were his boond-men sory : *and* no þing^t glade
 Whan Gamelyn her lord / wolfes hede was cried *and* made
 And sent^t out^t of his men wher þei myȝt^t hym fynde
 ffor to go seke Gamelyn vnder þe wode lynde
 To telle hym tyding^t þe wynde was wente
 And al his good reued and al his men shent^t 704

Whan þei had hym founden on knees þei hem setten
 And adoune with her hodes and her lord gretten
 Sir' wreth 3ou not' for þe good rode
 ffor we han brou3t' 3ou tydyngges but' þei be not' gode 708
 Nowe is þi broþer Sherreue *and* haþ þe bayly
 And haþ endited þe / and wolfes hede doþ þe crye
 Allas seide Gamelyn þat' euere I was so sclak
 þat' I ne had broke his nek whan I his rigge brak' 712
 Gop greteþ wel myn husbondes and wif [leaf 72]
 I wil be at' þe next' shyre haue god my lif
 Gamelyn come redy to þe next' shire
 And þer was his broþer boþ lord and sire 716
 Gamelyn boldely come into þe mote halle
 And putt' a doun his hode / amonge þo lordes alle
 God saue 3ou lordinggs þat' here be
 But' broke-bak sherreue euel mote þou þee 720
 Whi hast þou doñ me þat' shame and vilonye
 fforto lat' endite me / and wolfeshede do me crye
 þoo þou3t' þe fals kny3t' forto bene awreke
 And lette Gamelyn most' he no þing' speke 724
 Might' þer be no grace. but' Gamelyn atte last'
 Was cast/ in prison and fettred fast'
 ¶ Gamelyn haþ a broþere þat' hi3t' sir Ote
 Als good an knyght' and hende as my3t goñ on fote 728
 Anoon 3ede a massager' to þat' good kny3t'
 And tolde him al to-gidere how gamelyn was di3t'
 Anoon whan sir' ote herd howe Gamelyn was di3t'
 He was ri3t' sory and no þing' li3t' 732
 And lete sadel a stede and þe way namme
 And to his tweyne breþeren ri3t sone he camme
 Sir' seide Sir' Ote to þe sherreue þoo
 We bene but' þre breþeren shul we neuere be mo 736
 And þou hast' prisoned þe best of vs alle
 Such anopere broþer euel mote hym byfalle
 Sir' Ote seide þe false knyght' lat' be þi cors
 By god for þi wordes he shal fare þe wors 740

To þe kingges prison he is ynome
 And þer he shal abide to þe Iustise come
 Parde Seide Sir' Ote better it' shal be
 I bid hym to maynprise þat þou graunte me 744
 To þe next' sitting' of delyueraunce
 And lat' þan Gamelyn stonde to his chaunce
 Broþere in such a forward' I take hym to þe
 And by þ^e fader soule þat' þe bigate *and* me 748
 But' he be redy whan þe Iustice sitte [leaf 72, back]
 þou shalt' bere þe Iuggement' for al þi grete witte
 I graunte wel seide Sir' Ote þat' it' so be
 Lat' delyuere hym anoon and take hym to me 752
 Tho was gamelyn delyuered to Sir' ote his broþer'
 And þat' nyght' dwelled þe ooñ wiþ þe oþer'
 On the morowe seide Gamelyn to Sir' Ote þe hende
 Broþer he seide I mote forsoþ from 30ⁿ wende 756
 To loke howe my 3onge men leden her liff
 Whedere þei lyuen in Ioie or ellis in striff
 By god seide Sir' ote þat' is a colde rede
 Nowe I se þat' alle þe Carke shal fal on my hede 760
 ffor whan þe Iustise sitte and þou be not' yfound'
 I shal anoon be take and in þi stede I-bound'
 Broþer seide Gamelyn dismay 3ou nou3t'
 ffor by seint Iame in Gales þat' mony men hap sou3t' 764
 3if that god almy3ty holde my lif and witte
 I wil be redy whan þe Iustice sitte
 Than seide sire Ote to gamelyn god shilde þ^e from shame
 Come whan þou seest' tyme and bring' vs out' of blame 768
 ¶ Lipenep and listenep and holde 3ou stille
 And 3e shul here howe Gamelyn had al his wille
 Gamelyn went' vnder þe wode Ris
 And fonde þer pleying' 3eng' men of pris 772
 þo was 3ong' gamelyn ri3t' glad ynou3e
 Whan he fonde his men vnder wode bou3e
 Gamelyn and his men talkeden in fere
 And þei had good game her maister to here 776

His men tolde him of auentures þat þei had found
 And Gamelyn tolde hem azein howe he was fast bounde
 While Gamelyn was outlawe had he no cors
 þer was no man þat for him ferde þe wors 780
 But Abbottes *and* Priours monk and chanone
 On hem left he nouȝt whan he myȝt hem nome
 While Gamelyn and his men made merþes ryve
 þe fals knyght his broþer euel mot he thryve 784
 ffor he was fast about boþ day and oþer [leaf 73]
 ffor to hiren þe quest to hongen his broþer
 Gamelyn stode on a day and byheeld
 þe wodes and þe Shawes and þe wild feelde 788
 He þouȝt on his broþere how he hym byhette
 þat he wold be redy whan þe Iustice sette
 He þouȝt wel he wold wip-out delay
 Come to-fore þe Iustice to kepen his day 792
 And saide to his ȝonge men dighteþ ȝou ȝare
 ffor whan þe Iustice sitte we most be þare
 ffor I am vnder borowe til þat I come
 And my broþer for me to prison shal be nome 796
 Be seint Iame seide his ȝonge men and þou rede þerto
 Ordeyn how it shal be and it shal be do
 While Gamelyn was commyng þer þe Iustice satte
 þe fals knyȝt his broþer forȝate he not þat 800
 To hire þe men of þe quest to hangen his broþer
 þouȝe þei had not þat oon þei wold haue þat oþer
 Tho come Gamelyn from vnder þe wode Ris
 And brouȝt with hym ȝonge men of pris 804
 I see wel seide Gamelyn þe Iustise is sette
 Go a-forn adam and loke how it spette
 Adam went into þe halle *and* loked al aboute
 He segȝ þer stonde lordes grete *and* stoute 808
 And Sire Ote his broþer fetred ful fast
 þoo went Adam out of halle as he were a-gast
 Adam seide to Gamelyn and to his felawes all
 Sire Ote stout fetered in þe mote haȝt 812

[.]

. *no gap in the MS.*]

If gode ȝeue vs grace wel forto doo

He shal it abigge þat it brouȝt þerto / 816

þan seide Adam þat lockes had hore

Cristes curs mote he haue þat hym bonde so sore

And þou wilt Gamelyn do after my rede

þer is noon in þe halle shal bere away his hede 820

Adam seide Gamelyn we wil not do soo

We wil slee þe giltif and lat þe opere goo/

I wil into þe halle and with þe Iustice speke [leaf 73, back]

Of hem þat bene giltif I wil ben awreke 824

Late no skape at þe door take ȝonge men ȝeme

ffor I wil be Iustise þis day domes to deme

God spede me þis day at my newe werk

Adam come with me for þou shalt be my clerk 828

His men answerde hym. and bad done his best

And if þou to vs haue nede þou shalt finde vs prest

We wil stonde wiþ þe while þat we may dure

And but we worchen manly pay vs none hure 832

ȝonge men said Gamelyn so mote I wel þe

A trusty maister ȝe shul fynde me

Riȝt þere þe Iustise satte in þe halle

Inne went Gamelyn amonges hem alle 836

Gamelyn lete vnfetter his broþer out of bende

þan seide Sir Ote his broþer þat was hende

þow haddest almost Gamelyn dwelled to longe

ffor þe quest is out on me þat I shuld honge 840

Broþer seide Gamelyn so god ȝeue me good rest

þis day shul þei be honged / þat ben on þe quest

And þe Iustise boþ þat is þe Iuge man

And þe Sherreue also. þorgh hym it bigan 844

Than seide Gamelyn to þe Iustice

Now is þi power done. þe most nedes rise

þow hast ȝeuen domes þat bene euel diȝt

I wil sitten in þi sete and dressen/ hem ariȝt 848

The Iustise satte stille and roos not anone
 And Gamelyn cleued his cheke bone
 Gamelyn toke him in his armes *and* no more spake
 But threwe hym ouer þe barre and his arme brake 852
 Dorst noon to Gamelyn seie but good
 ffor feerd of þe company þat *with-out* stoode
 Gamelyn sette hym down in þe Iustise sete
 And Sire Ote his broþere by hym. and Adam at his fete
 Whan gamelyn was sette in þe Iustise sede
 Herken of a bourde þat Gamelyn dede
 He lete fetter þe Iustise and his fals broþere [leaf 74]
 And did hem come to þe barre þat on *with* þat opere 860
 Whan gamelyn had þus ydone had he no rest
 Til he had enquired who was on his quest
 fforto demen his broþer sire Ote forto honge
 Er he wist what þei were hym þouzt ful longe 864
 But as sone as Gamelyn wist where þei were
 He did hem euerechone fetter in fere
 And bringgen hem to þe barre & setten in rewe
 By my feiþ seide þe Iustise þe sherrue is a shrewe 868
 þan seide Gamelyn to þe Iustise
 þou hast ȝoue domes of þe worst assise
 And þe xij. Sesoures þat weren on þe quest
 þei shul be honged þis day so haue I good rest 872
 Than seide þe sheref to ȝonge Gamelyn
 Lord I crie þe mercie broþer art þou myn
 þerfor seide Gamelyn haue þou cristes curs
 ffor and þow were maister. I shuld haue wors 876
 fforto make short tale and not to longe
 He ordeyned hym a quest of his men stronge
 þe Iustise and þe Sirreue boþ honged hie
 To weyuen wiþ þe ropes and þe winde drye 880
 And þe xij. Sisours sorowe haue þat rekke
 Aft þei were honged fast by þe nekke
 þus endeþ þe fals knyzt wiþ his trecherye
 þat euere had lad his lif in falsnesse *and* folye 884

He was honged by þe nek and not by þe purs
 þat was þe mede þat he had for his faders curs
 Sire Otes was eldest and Gamelyn was 3enge
 Wenten to her frendes / and passed to þe kinge 888
 þei maden pees wiþ þe king of þe best sise
 þe king loued wel sir Ote & made hym iustise
 And after þe king made Gamelyn in est *and* in west
 þe cheef Iustice of his free forest 892
 Aft his wi3t 3onge men þe king forgaf her gilt
 And sipen in good office þe king haþ hem pilt
 Thus wanne Gamelyn his land and his lede
 And wreke him on his enemyes. *and* quytte hem her mede
 And Sire Ote his broþer made him his heire
 And Sipen wedded gamelyn a wif good and faire
 They lyued to-gidere þe while þat crist wold
 And sipen was Gamelyn grauen vnder mold 900
 And so shul we all : may þer no man fle
 God bring vs to þat Ioye þat euer shal be
here endep þe tale of þe Coke.)

*[The Prologue and Tale of the Shipman follow, without
 any break in the MS.]*

SECOND SERIES.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1868** is,

1. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part I. This work includes an amalgamation of Prof. F. J. Child's two Papers on the use of the final *-e* by Chaucer (in T. Wright's ed. of *The Canterbury Tales*) and by Gower (in Dr Pauli's ed. of the *Confessio Amantis*).

2. Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part I.: 1. Prof. Ebert's Review of Sandras's *Etude sur Chaucer*, translated by J. W. van Rees Hoets, M.A.; 2. A 13th-century Latin Treatise on the *Chilindre* (of the *Shipman's Tale*), edited by Mr E. Brock.

3. A Temporary Preface to the Society's Six-Text edition of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Part I, attempting to show the right Order of the Tales, and the Days and Stages of the Pilgrimage, &c. &c., by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1869** is,

4. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part II.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1870** is,

5. Early English Pronunciation, with especial reference to Shakspeare and Chaucer, by Alexander J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. Part III.

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1871** is,

6. Trial-Forewords to my Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's *Minor Poems* for the Chaucer Society (with a try to set Chaucer's Works in their right order of Time), by Fredk. J. Furnivall. Part I. (This Part brings-out, for the first time, Chaucer's long early but hopeless love.)

Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1872** is,

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Of the **Second Series**, the issue for **1873** is,

8. Albertano of Brescia's *Liber Consilii et Consolationis*, A.D. 1246 (the Latin source of the French original of Chaucer's *Melibe*), edited from the MSS, by Dr Thor Sundby.

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9. Essays on Chaucer, his Words and Works, Part II.: 3. John of Hoveden's *Practica Chilindri*, edited from the MS, with a translation, by Mr E. Brock. 4. Chaucer's use of the final *-e*, by Joseph Payne, Esq. 5. Mrs E. Barrett-Browning on Chaucer: being those parts of her review of the *Book of the Poets*, 1842, which relate to him; here reprinted by leave of Mr Robert Browning. 6. Professor Bernhard Ten-Brink's critical edition of Chaucer's *Compleynte to Pite*.

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10. Originals and Analogues of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Part II. 6. Alphon-sus of Lincoln, a Story like the *Prioress's Tale*. 7. How Reynard caught Chanticleer, the source of the *Nun's-Priest's Tale*. 8. Two Italian Stories, and a Latin one, like the *Pardoner's Tale*. 9. The Tale of the Priest's Bladder, a story like the *Summoner's Tale*, being 'Li dis de le Vescie a Prestre,' par Jakes de Basiw. 10. Petrarch's Latin Tale of Griseldis (with Boccaccio's Story from which it was re-told), the original of the *Clerk's Tale*. 11. Five Versions of a Pear-tree Story like that in the *Merchant's Tale*. 12. Four Versions of The Life of Saint Cecilia, the original of the *Second Nun's Tale*.

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12. Life-Records of Chaucer, Part I, The Robberies of Chaucer by Richard Brerelay and others at Westminster, and at Hatcham, Surrey, on Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1390, with some Account of the Robbers, from the Enrolments in the Public Record Office, by Walford D. Selby, Esq., of the Public Record Office.

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